

Genetically bred mosquitoes to fight malaria

Singaporeans should be more gracious, warm-premier

Independence Day

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King: Peace talks must continue

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday urged all the parties involved in the Middle East peace process to pursue the peace talks until a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is established. Addressing a delegation representing the American for Peace Now in the Royal Court, King Hussein said peace in the Middle East has become an irreversible reality, adding that a just and comprehensive peace will thwart doubts and suspicions. The King said that peace and security are inseparable. King Hussein urged parties to the peace talks to respect the agreements they have signed, saying that dialogue and negotiations are the only means to establish peace.

S. Arabia to employ 2,000 Jordanian teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Saudi delegation has started receiving applications from Jordanian teachers ahead of contracting about 2,000 Jordanian teachers to work in Saudi government schools. Head of the delegation Suleiman Al Zaidi told Al Rai daily Tuesday that Jordanian teacher can also apply for work in Saudi private schools, adding that a special committee will arrive in Amman in two days to interview applicants for work in Saudi community colleges.

Cabinet to draft law on bread subsidies

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said Tuesday that the government will draft a new legislation on bread subsidies to ensure that these subsidies are specified in law which will guarantee the continuity of providing them to the citizens. Dr. Muasher was speaking to journalists after a Cabinet meeting which discussed the general framework for the 1997 budget and means of decreasing expenditure, with Cabinet members presenting their views on the issue. The Cabinet, in its regular weekly meeting, also discussed means of cutting down on government of Cabinet spending for the remaining of fiscal year 1996 in light of the growing deficit in the budget.

Fahd receives Kuwait crown prince

JEDDAH (AFP) — Saudi King Fahd received Tuesday the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, at the Red Sea city of Jeddah, the official Saudi Press Agency said. The two men discussed "bilateral relations, the developments in the Gulf, on the Arab scene and in the Muslim World," the agency said without giving further details. It added that the Kuwaiti crown prince had offered his country's support to the king following last month's bombing of a U.S. military compound at Al Khobar in eastern Saudi Arabia which killed 19 American airmen.

Israeli shelling wounds 14-year-old

LEBANON (R) — Israeli artillery shelled suspected Hizbollah hideouts in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, wounding a 14-year-old girl who was out picking herbs, security sources said. Dalal Al Rajab was wounded on the banks of the Zaharani River northwest of the southern town of Nabatiyeh and taken to hospital, the sources said, describing her injuries as moderate. An April 27 ceasefire understanding, which ended a 17-day Israeli blitz on Lebanon, bans firing from or at civilian targets on both sides of the borders.

10 Egyptians killed in bus accident

CAIRO (R) — Ten Egyptians were killed and 48 injured when their bus overturned in northwestern Saudi Arabia, the Egyptian government newspaper Al Ahram said Monday. Two Egyptian children on the bus lost their parents in the accident and the Egyptian government is flying relatives to Saudi Arabia to look after them, it said. The accident took place near the town of Tobuk.

Clinton-Netanyahu encounter produces no specific assurances on key factors in peace process

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday that his new hardline government would continue to strive for "peace with security" with Arab states including Syria but made no specific commitments on the major issues that are expected to slow the pace of the peace process. "I'm confident we can overcome the hurdles that face us and continue with the genuine process of seeking peace with security ... We have a determination to work with those Arab leaders who are interested in seeking peace," Mr. Netanyahu said at a joint news conference with Mr. Clinton during his first U.S. visit since winning election as prime minister on May 29.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures to U.S. President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office Tuesday. The two leaders discussed the Mideast peace process and held a joint news conference later in the day (Reuters photo)

"I have said I am prepared to negotiate with President (Hafez Al) Assad of Syria on peace," Mr. Netanyahu said in touching — without specifics — on one of the points of concern to U.S. officials worried that his Likud government would seriously slow the pace of peace negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians. Mr. Clinton opened the news conference, which followed introductory talks that ran over two hours including a working lunch, by reaffirming that U.S.-Israeli ties remained as strong as ever following Netanyahu's defeat of former Labour Prime Minister Shimon

Peres. "Those who would try to drive a wedge between Israel and the United States will not succeed," Mr. Clinton said. Mr. Netanyahu responded in kind, saying, "our relationship today is as solid as ever and it will continue to be solid and friendly in the utmost degree." He thanked Mr. Clinton for his pledge to continue strong U.S. support for Israel's security and said that security, especially against terrorist attack, was a required condition for achieving further peace accords. Although Mr. Netanyahu was conciliatory in general terms on being willing to

pursue peace with Syria and to continue negotiations on implementing Palestinian accords, he made no specific commitments on these items. On two other key items — an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron in the West Bank and meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — he was noncommittal. "The problem in Hebron is a serious problem of security. No government, including the previous government, could act precipitously in Hebron because the potential for explosion there is immense," Mr. Netanyahu said. The new prime minister

said the subject would be "something I will discuss with my cabinet colleagues." Mr. Netanyahu said contacts with the Palestinian National Authority would be continued. "We have ongoing contacts with Mr. Arafat and with the Palestinian Authority. I have my own representatives who have been meeting with him on a regular basis," he said. "And we'll expand these contacts, both in frequency and the level of the personnel involved. I said that if I deem it necessary for peace or for the interest of Israel to meet Arafat, I won't rule it out."

Lebanon election bill draws MPs' ire

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's parliament began debating on Tuesday a bill to organize parliamentary elections next month that many Christians and Muslims say is deliberately unfair because it would further alienate the Christian minority. The government-sponsored bill is widely seen as designed to ensure the election of Walid Jumblatt, leader of the small Druze community, who is a political ally of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and of Syrian leaders who have a controlling say in Lebanon. By guaranteeing election for Mr. Jumblatt — whose forces razed dozens of Maronite Christian villages during the 1975-90 civil war — and his friends, the bill would also reduce the number of independent Christians who might be elected to parliament.

This has raised fears that if parliament approves the bill Lebanon's Christian minority might repeat the massive election boycott they staged in 1992 on the grounds the polls were rigged to bring in deputies loyal to Syria. Damascus is a key broker in Lebanon where it also has an estimated 35,000 troops. Parliament is due to vote on the bill on Thursday and the elections are expected to begin in Mount Lebanon on Aug. 18 or 25 and continue for the following four Sundays in different constituencies. The bill proposes to divide Lebanon into four constituencies based on governorates but splits the fifth governorate — overwhelmingly Maronite Christian Mount Lebanon — into six constituencies based on "casas" or districts.

King Fahd says talks with Chirac boosted ties

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said on Monday his talks with French President Jacques Chirac consolidated and ensured continued cooperation on all levels. The king praised the talks at a cabinet meeting in Jeddah on Monday night, the official Saudi Press Agency said. The 75-year-old king, who suffered a stroke in November, met Mr. Chirac — on his first visit to Saudi Arabia since he became head of state nearly 14 months ago — at Jeddah airport on Saturday and saw him off as well at the end of the visit on Monday. Mr. Chirac said that close ties

between France and Saudi Arabia were key to the relationship Paris seeks to develop with the Arab World and nations of the Middle East in general. French officials had stressed the purpose of the visit was political and not commercial, but said that France still hoped to promote both military and commercial trade Saudi Arabia. France, which buys one-quarter of its oil from the kingdom, is Riyadh's third biggest arms supplier after the United States and Britain. Weapons sales average \$1.2 billion a year, roughly equivalent to civilian exports.

Palestinian officials ignore Israeli police summons

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Six Palestinian legislators representing Jerusalem refused Tuesday to appear for questioning by Israeli police, saying the summons violated the peace agreement. Israeli police asked the council members, including Palestinian Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi, to appear at their Jerusalem headquarters Tuesday morning. They did not give any reason for the summons. Council Speaker Ahmad Qureia said the summons violated the immunity given to Palestinian legislators by the Oslo-PLO accords. "It appears the new Israeli government is distancing itself from the agreement Israel signed," he said. "There is no reason for any

of the members to respond to this call, which is regarded as a violation to the simplest principle of the agreement. We totally reject it." Israel's Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said police did not want to interrogate the legislators. "We meant to tell them, the representatives of the Palestinian authority who live in Jerusalem, the rules of conduct inside Jerusalem," he said. "It was not to be an interrogation." Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said: "We'll talk to them, don't worry. We'll find a way. We won't send police to their houses and bring them by foot, but we'll talk to them in due time."

Israel Radio said the main topic to be discussed was the Orient House, the PLO's unofficial Jerusalem headquarters. Israel has threatened to shut it down, saying the meetings there between Palestinian and foreign officials violate the Israel-PLO accords, which ban Palestinian government activity in the city until its future is determined in final status negotiations. The Yediot Achronot newspaper said police wanted to warn the council members that their activity in Jerusalem must end. It said the summons were approved by Mr. Kahalani, the Israeli police minister. Mr. Kahalani said Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian minister in charge of Jerusalem affairs, had asked him for a meeting. "We are checking how and when we shall meet," he said.

Rights group slams Israel over treatment of Palestinians Israeli Arabs 'face discrimination in every field of life'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli civil rights group has slammed the Jewish state over its treatment of Israeli Arabs, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and foreign workers. The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) said some Palestinians died because they could not travel to Israel for medical treatment after Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip earlier this year. The ACRI said in a report issued Monday that Jewish citizens enjoyed freedoms

comparable to those in most Western countries, but "minorities" did not fare as well. "As a democracy, the state of Israel respects the most basic human rights of its citizens, most notably the individual's right to life," it said. "The position of residents of the (Palestinian) territories under Israeli control — in the West Bank and to a certain extent in the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon — is completely different." The report cited the

Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after suicide bombers killed 59 people in Israel in February and March. Thousands of Palestinians have been barred from reaching their jobs in Israel. "The closure has led to the deaths of several people including babies who were prevented from reaching (Israeli) hospitals," it said. ACRI also lashed out at Israel's Shin Bet security service, which it said continued to use "particularly violent methods of interrogation" against Palestinians. "Arab citizens of Israel face discrimination in almost every field of life," said the report, which focused on basic rights such as freedom of expression, equality, fair legal treatment and religion. It said Israel's 900,000 Arab citizens have suffered from "the most blatant and severe violation of the right to equality" since the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. ACRI criticised Israel's treatment of some 200,000

foreign workers who replaced thousands of barred Palestinians. Foreign workers, the report said, do not enjoy any civil rights, live and work in appalling conditions and are subject to expulsion upon violation of their visa terms. ACRI officials said they were concerned that the presence of ultraorthodox Jewish parties in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government could harm religious freedoms.

Arab fund lends Jordan \$ 6.3 million

AMMAN (AP) — The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development granted Jordan a soft loan of 1.9 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$ 6.3 million) for a water project, the official news agency Petra reported Tuesday. Petra said the loan, with an annual interest rate of 4.5 per cent, was repayable over 13 years with a four-year grace period. It said the money would be used to divert 45 million cubic metres (1.6 billion cubic feet) of water from the northwestern Hawwarat Dam to Abu Zayyan Canal in the Jordan valley. "The project aims at improving the quality of irrigation water" in the valley, Petra said.

Syria fails to mediate between Iran and Egypt

TEHRAN (AFP) — A Syrian bid to mediate a rapprochement between Iran and Egypt has collapsed amid a bitter war of words, with an Iranian daily Tuesday blaming Cairo's pro-Israeli policies for the failure. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak drew sharp Iranian criticism for rejecting Sunday a Syrian proposal to hold a three-way ministerial meeting saying "Iran still continues its operations against several Arab countries, including Egypt." His top policy advisor Osama Al Baz also said that for any rapprochement to succeed Iran must prove it no longer "supports terrorists or exercises pressure on Gulf countries," according to the Egyptian state news agency MENA. But the Iranian press hit back qualifying the accusations as "absurd" and on Tuesday charged that Egypt was to blame for the failure of the Syrian mediation because of its pro-Israeli policies. "Our officials in charge of foreign policy have been misinformed on Egypt's Israel policy," said the English-language Tehran Times. "The Syrian initiative to help bring about a rapprochement between Iran and Egypt has unfortunately proven to be a miscalculation because the Egyptian officials of today are following Anwar Sadat's policies of the late 70s."

Iran broke diplomatic ties with Egypt in 1979 just after the Islamic revolution, because the then Egyptian President Sadat gave asylum to the pro-West shah and signed a peace accord with Israel — considered the Islamic republic's arch enemy. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said late Monday that the failure of the mediation by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa was "regrettable." "Our position in principle on the issue of relations with Egypt has not changed ... The more Egypt distances itself from Israel, the more it approaches Iran," Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ahmad Al Hassan said meanwhile Damascus would "continue our efforts to cultivate unity among regional countries despite difficulties." Without naming the United States or Egypt, he said: "There are certain countries in the Middle East which are under pressure from outside the region to keep their distance from Iran." Washington has led a vigorous campaign to isolate Tehran which it accuses of supporting terrorism, charges which are denied by Iranian leaders.

Sharaa accuses Israel of 'extreme terrorism'

RIYADH (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa on Tuesday accused Israel of terrorism and of defying the international community on the Middle East peace process. During a visit to Saudi Arabia, he said, the new Israeli government has used every opportunity to defy the will of the international community and show its contempt for the basic principles of the peace process. He said at the start of cooperation talks between senior Saudi and Syrian officials here that Israel's policy of forced settlement of the occupied Arab territories "constituted 'an extreme form of terrorism'."

The continuation of such an extremist policy will close the door definitively on an equitable and global peace process in the region," the Syrian foreign minister warned. Mr. Sharaa told AFP his comments were in response to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assurances on Monday on a development plan for the plateau, captured from Syria in 1967. Mr. Netanyahu, currently making his first visit to the United States as Israeli leader, has said the peace process will continue but ruled out one of its basic planks — the handing back of captured Arab land for peace. Mr. Sharaa said that Arabs would never renounce their right to land occupied by the Israelis. Mr. Sharaa headed a Syrian delegation in the Saudi capital to take part in cooperation talks and discuss developments in the region. The meeting was the sixth of a joint committee on cooperation between the two Arab states, which was postponed in April because of Israel's "Grapes of Wrath" attack on southern Lebanon.

Palestinian left to rot in Israeli jail, family says

LIBEN, West Bank (Agencies) — A West Bank Palestinian has been locked up in an Israeli jail for six years awaiting trial, his family complained.

Abdul Hadi Awiss, 41, was arrested in August 1990 after the murder of a suspected Palestinian collaborator by the Israeli occupation authorities in Liben, north of Ramallah.

According to his family and lawyer, Mr. Awiss should have stood trial within six months under Israeli military regulations.

"This decision has been endlessly pushed back since 1990 without us receiving any explanation," his wife Ifikar told AFP.

"My husband always denied the murder and a witness has admitted giving a weapon to the true killer," she said. She believes Israel is taking revenge for his past as a PLO activist.

Mr. Awiss spent eight years in prison two decades ago after being involved in a car bomb attack in Israel, and as a local leader of Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement has since been under house arrest on three occasions.

As well as waiting for action from Israel's military authorities, Ifikar has asked the Palestinian National Authority to secure her husband's release.

Hisham Abdul Razek, in charge of the authority's dossier on the 6,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails, said Mr. Awiss's detention was illegal but that since the election of right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu all negotiations with Israel on the matter had stopped.

In Gaza City, hundreds of Palestinians protested against Israeli



Palestinian police prevent Palestinians from entering the Nitsarem settlement during a demonstration Tuesday. They were chanting for the freedom of the Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails (Reuters photo)

restrictions limiting the visitation rights of Palestinian prisoners to their immediate families. About 700 protesters, some carrying photos of imprisoned relatives, set off in buses from Gaza's southern border with Egypt to the Erez crossing point to Israel about 50 kilometres north. Palestinian police blocked them just shy

of the Israeli border. In recent days, Israel introduced new rules on visits to the 3,300 Palestinian prisoners — limiting them to only parents, children and siblings under the age of 16.

Mr. Abdul Razek said that left some prisoners with no one to visit them. About 700 of the prisoners held in Israeli jails come from

autonomous Gaza, he said.

The new restrictions come after a four-month period in which the prisoners could not receive any visitors at all — a measure imposed in response to a wave of terrorist bombings in Israel by Islamic militants in February and March. Before the bombings, 7,400 Palestinian prisoners had been released

since the signing of the Israel-PLO agreement in 1993.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the Israeli liaison with Palestinians, said the restrictions were required to deal with a "very delicate" situation. "We are speaking of people sitting in jail because of terrorist activities," he said. "For us the family is

some kind of risk — they may deliver things we don't want them to deliver, like information."

Supporters of various political factions, including the Islamic Hamas movement, took part in Tuesday's protest.

Several hundred suspected militants are also held in Palestinian jails.

Red Cross steps up medical supplies for Somalia's war victims

NAIROBI (AFP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) have stepped up emergency medical supplies for Somalia's victims of the country's ongoing civil war, flooding and cholera, the ICRC said in a statement released here on Tuesday.

The statement said that since fighting broke out in the Somali capital Mogadishu in June, the ICRC and the SRCS had stepped up their activities to ensure that all medical facilities treating the war wounded received emergency supplies.

In total, the statement said, 4.5 tonnes of supplies were airlifted to Mogadishu to support existing emergency stocks for treatment of some 400 war wounded in the past one month.

The ICRC and the SRCS were continuing their work to assist the victims of the fighting, despite very difficult security conditions emanating from continued sporadic fighting in the divided Somali capital.

North Mogadishu is controlled by the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) faction of self-styled Somali interim President Ali Mahdi Muhammad and the south by his arch-rival General Mohammad Farah Aidede's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction.

The ICRC has also stepped up emergency food and medical assistance for

victims of the recent flooding in the Juba Valley region, the statement said, pointing out that in July, the ICRC distributed 75 tonnes of food relief to displaced families, plastic sheeting to 1,000 families and were currently in the process of distributing mosquito nets to 5,000 families.

The ICRC has also begun a primary health care programme to combat severe lack of health facilities in the Juba valley and was training local people in 19 villages to deal with common health problems with a minimum of external support, the statement said.

The statement said the ICRC had also responded to appeals to assist in treating the sick and carrying out preventive action in Sool region, where a recent outbreak of cholera had affected many people.

At the same time, an ICRC and SRCS emergency programme had helped to save thousands of camels belonging to nomads in the Nugal region of Garowe, where up to 70 per cent of camels herders were found to be suffering from a virulent form of pneumonia at the end of May.

The owners had been faced with a cut in their income as they had to stop selling camel milk, but could not at the same time treat their animals after price of veterinary medicines had increased three-fold on the local market.

Bahrain jails nine for planting bomb

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's state security court has jailed nine Bahrainis for three to five years on charges of planting an explosive device and distributing leaflets, a government official said on Tuesday.

The official said the court on Monday jailed two people for five years and three others for three years on charges of planting an explosive device under an oil pipeline.

Four other Bahrainis received three-year jail terms for printing and distributing leaflets containing false news, he added.

The court has sentenced at least 128 people since Bahrain's government, seeking to speed up judge-

ments, ordered it in March to try hundreds of detainees held for street protests, sabotage and arson attacks.

The court, whose judgement cannot be appealed, last week ordered the execution of three Bahrainis for an arson attack in March in which seven Bangladeshis died. It also jailed four for life and another man for 15 years for taking part in the attack.

At least 25 people, including three policemen and the seven Bangladeshis, have been killed since anti-government unrest erupted in the Gulf Arab state in December 1994 by members of its Shi'ite Muslim majority seeking political and economic reforms.

Syria welcomes Turkey's first Islamist premier

Washington urges Erbakan government to respect U.S. interests

SYRIAN PRESIDENT Hafez Al Assad has congratulated Turkey's new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and called for the two neighbours to overcome their disputes and open a new chapter in relations.

"We are hoping for a joint beginning which will strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, linked by religion, neighbourliness and history," Mr. Assad said in his message sent late Monday.

Mr. Assad said a parliamentary vote of confidence in Mr. Erbakan's coalition Monday was a vote for "relations based on reciprocal trust and joint interests, which will enable our two countries to solve any differ-

ences through dialogue and mutual understanding," according to official news agency SANA.

Damascus has urged Ankara to overcome bilateral disputes over the sharing of the vital waters of the Euphrates River and over an Israeli-Turkish military accord which allows Israeli pilots to train in Turkey's airspace. Syria views the accord as a threat to its own security.

Before coming to power, Mr. Erbakan had denounced the Israel-Turkish military accord. On Saturday he said his government would be committed to all international conventions but warned that "those provisions which are against our national interest and security will not be implemented."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa has said that a victory for Mr. Erbakan would have "positive consequences on Turkish-Syrian relations."

Mr. Erbakan became the first Islamist premier since the creation of the modern Turkish state 73 years ago when deputies on Monday narrowly passed a vote of confidence in his coalition government between his pro-Islamic Welfare Party and former Premier Tansu Ciller's conservative True Path Party.

Washington, meanwhile, congratulated Turkey on the formation of its new government but also urged Mr. Erbakan to respect U.S. interests.

Spokesman Nicholas Burns congratulated Mr. Erbakan and Ms. Ciller but promptly stressed that "relations between the United States and Turkey ... do not depend on individual governments; they depend on our national interests."

U.S. interests in Turkey "dictate that we will continue to be concerned by Turkey's full participation and active participation in NATO," he said, adding that "Turkey should be associated with Western institutions like the European Union."

He said U.S. interests also entailed respect of democracy and human rights in Turkey, saying Ankara plays "a very important role vis-a-vis the United States in promoting stability and securi-

ty." "So, we have interests at stake here. And we'll follow our interests as we begin to work with this new government," Mr. Burns said.

On the other hand, the Greek foreign minister said the Erbakan-Ciller has no future.

"I don't think the Erbakan-Ciller coalition can last, it's an alliance of convenience," Theodore Pangalos told the daily pro-government Ta Nea newspaper in an interview published Tuesday.

Mr. Pangalos said Turkey's Islamist government put its European identity into question.

"A country where a third of the population finds the answers to its problems in religious fanaticism cannot

be considered, a European country," he said, adding that Turkey "has a long way to go before being considered a full European partner."

Turkey and Greece came to the brink of war in January over the sovereignty of a handful of rocky islets in the Aegean Sea.

Mr. Pangalos conceded that Mr. Erbakan was elected democratically and that the Islamic movement has historic and cultural roots in Turkey. But he said that today this movement contributes to the country's social problems. He expressed the hope that Turkey would find a solution to its instability, saying the country needs a stable government with a majority in order to resist military and diplomatic pressures.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Flintstones
15:30 Iris
15:45 Bill Nye the Science Guy
16:00 Kelly
17:00 Les Pollards
17:30 Serie — Simonon
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Evening Shade
20:00 Super Stars of Action
20:30 Drama — Chaucer
21:10 Drama — Hunter
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bold and Beautiful
23:15 Drama — Bugs

PRAYER TIMES

03:59 Fajr
05:32 (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhuhur
16:21 Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De in Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly above average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. On Thursday and Friday temperatures are expected to drop becoming around average. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. 22/34

Aqaba 27/40

Deserts 19/37

Jordan Valley 24/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Jihad Sammour ..765018
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaydeh 736011
Dr. Hisham Kan'an ..751672
Dr. Bilal Al Sayid ..790286
Firas pharmacy ..661912
Ferdows pharmacy ..890280
Al Asema pharmacy ..637055
Al Salam pharmacy ..636730
Yacoub pharmacy ..644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy ..623672
Najib pharmacy ..847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Baker 276852

Al Quds pharmacy ..(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad ..985550

Khalifeh pharmacy ..985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..617101

Blood Bank ..775121

Highway Police ..843402

Traffic Police ..896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints ..605800

Price Complaints ..661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints ..897467

Amman Municipality Complaints ..787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..121

Overseas Calls ..010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television ..773111

Radio Jordan ..774111

Water Authority ..680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity. 644281/6

Akileh Maternity. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 8-5845

Al-Nusheer Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..664164/6

Italian, Al-Mahajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir.775111/26

Army, Marka ..891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital ..674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Infor-

mation department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:15Dhahran (add) (RJ)

09:30Jeddah (RJ)

10:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:45Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)

10:50Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

15:45New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:30Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

18:00Paris (RJ)

18:15Istanbul (RJ)

19:00Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

19:10Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

19:15London, Berlin (RJ)

19:15Rome (RJ)

01:10Madrid (RJ)

00:30Beirut (RJ)

01:10Cairo (RJ)

21:30Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

22:00Dhahran (RJ)

22:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

02:00Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

04:00Amsterdam (KL)

08:45Beirut (ME)

09:15London (BA)

13:00Sanaa (TY)

13:45Jeddah (SV)

13:00Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

13:15Cairo (MS)

13:40Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:30Tunis (TU)

16:20Algiers (AH)

19:00Dubai (EK)

20:40London, Beirut (BA)

21:10Beirut (ME)

22:00Tel Aviv (LY)

22:35Larnaca (CY)

23:20Amsterdam (KL)

23:30Athens (OA)

03:35Antalia (TK)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

20:30Aqaba (QAIA) (RW)

19:45Tel Aviv (QAIA) (RW)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in Jds per kg.

Apricot800/900

Apple700/500

Banana600/600

Banana (mukhammar) ..520/520

Banana (imported) ..830/600

Cabbage170/120

Carrot140/80

Cauliflower230/170

Cucumber (large)140/80

Cucumber (small)240/140

Eggplant210/120

Garlic

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Cross steps up
ical supplies for
alia's war victims

Home News

Jordan Times, Wednesday, July 10, 1996

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday chairs the first general assembly meeting of the Jordan Society for Development (JSD). The meeting was attended by JSD Honorary Vice-Chairperson HRH Princess Ghida Talal and Ministry of Social Development representative Kassem Momani (Petra photo)

Queen urges maintenance of Bani Hamida weaving project standards

AMMAN (J.T.) — The founding members of the Jordan Society for Development (JSD) Tuesday held their first general assembly meeting under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Noor at Al Ma'wa Palace, a Royal Court statement said.

Established last May, JSD is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the "financial, cultural, health, social and environmental standard of living of community members through comprehensive development programmes."

According to the statement, Queen Noor, JSD's honorary chairperson, expressed her pride in the pioneering efforts of the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project, which has been transferred from the U.S.-based Save the Children to the care of JSD, emphasising the need to maintain its nationally and internationally renowned high standards and quality control.

She added that the Bani Hamida Project, which promotes comprehensive participatory community development with a market-oriented approach, has been acclaimed as a model self-sustaining income-generation project for rural women, the statement said.

At the meeting, the statement said, Save the Children Deputy Director Michael Austin expressed his appreciation of Queen Noor's support saying that "without it I question it would have been the success it has been."

In addition, Chairman of JSD's founding members' committee Ja'far Toukan said that JSD will focus on

launching new projects in Jordan using the Bani Hamida Project as a model, activating new marketing schemes and expanding fund-raising efforts, according to the statement.

The meeting concluded with the elections of JSD's first board of directors, which will be chaired by Mr. Toukan.

The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project was established in 1985 as part of a national effort initiated by Queen Noor to revive and promote Jordan's heritage, increase work opportunities for low-income families and enhance the status of women as wage earners and decision-makers in their communities.

By training women to generate income and placing them in managerial positions, the project has empowered an entire community of women, enabling them to continue the education of their children, especially their daughters, and has raised their standard of living.

Since its inception, the project has benefited 1,475 women and their families, who have earned JD 886,866 in wages, which constitute 40 per cent of the family income in the Bani Hamida tribe, and sales have reached JD 2,016,021.

The meeting was attended by JSD Honorary Vice-Chairperson HRH Princess Ghida Talal and Ministry of Social Development representative Kassem Momani.

Kabariti urges CSC to fill government jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday urged the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to take immediate steps to fill government job vacancies for posts created in the 1996 fiscal budget.

Speaking during a visit to the CSC, Mr. Kabariti said the CSC should abide by its rules and regulations regarding the appointment of new government employees, based on a first-come-first-served basis in dealing with job applicants.

"The CSC staff will be held responsible for any violations of these rules and regulations," Mr. Kabariti said.

In reviewing CSC regulations with commission President Abdullah Olayyan and senior assistants, Mr. Kabariti suggested that certain regulations in the commission's statute be amended to provide job security to civil servants especially those filling senior posts.

Mr. Kabariti requested



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday reviews government job vacancy situation with Civil Service Commission President Abdullah Olayyan (left) at the CSC offices (Petra photo)

that CSC arrange for regular meetings between the prime minister and the secretaries general and directors general of government departments as soon as

possible to discuss issues of concern to their respective departments.

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Olayyan outlined to the

prime minister the various duties of the CSC and the procedures followed by commission staff to fill government department job vacancies.

Minister discusses tourism promotion with Italian, French envoys

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Saleh Irsheidat Tuesday discussed with the Italian and French ambassadors to Jordan their countries' assistance to Jordan in promoting its tourism industry.

At the meeting with Ambassadors Francesco Cerulli and Bernard Bajot, the minister reviewed plans for the creation of a museum in Jerash and the restoration of the ancient city's temples by a French team, funded by a French government grant estimated at two million francs.

They also reviewed financial and technical assistance from the Italian government for the development of the Madaba Mosaics School and the training of its Jordanian personnel.

According to a ministry statement, Dr. Irsheidat also reviewed with the two European envoys, on-going preparations for the organisation of a series of cultural events featuring Jordan's history and culture being undertaken by the Paris-based Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA).

The event which is expected to open next March will feature Jordan's contemporary art, handicrafts and history, according to IMA Director Camille Cabana who visited Amman late last month.

A ministry statement Monday said the IMA has assigned a 1,000 square metres of land for the Jordanian exhibition. It said it will be inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein and French President Jacques Chirac.

According to the statement, the Jordanian exhibi-

tion, which will be financed by the IMA, will offer the French public a taste of Jordan's history throughout the ages and will last for four months then proceed to Rome where it will stay for another two months.

The statement said that Jordanian artists along with private sector institutions and the Jordanian Travel Agents' Association will take part in these events.

Monday's meeting with the envoys was attended by Ghazi Bisheh, director of the Antiquities Department.

Fuheis Orthodox community rejects patriarch's excommunication order

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jerusalem-based Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theodoros is facing a new serious challenge to his authority as head of Orthodox Churches in Palestine and Jordan by the Fuheis Orthodox community which is determined to continue to support its local priests who are rejecting the patriarch's order of excommunication for alleged violations of church rules.

Adib Akroush, secretary general of a coordination and follow up committee for the Arab Orthodox Community in Fuheis, told the Jordan Times that the patriarch recently circulated a statement announcing the excommunication of priests Yaqoub Maddaen,

Nicola Makhamreh and Elias Sweiss because the patriarch had refused to abide by an earlier order suspending them from performing church services because of the support of the local community's demands for church reforms.

"But the three priests are continuing their work as usual and enjoy full support by the community and the Orthodox committee which continues paying their salaries and supervises the management of church-affiliated schools," said Mr. Akroush.

"The patriarch's decision does not have any legal basis because he did not conduct an investigation into the allegations against the priests, nor did he summon them to discuss the situation," Mr. Akroush said.

"We reject the patriarch's decisions as null and void, we will prevent any newly appointed priests from performing religious services in Fuheis in place of the three local clergymen and we are determined to finance the schools and the churches and run their affiliated institutions in our area," added Mr. Akroush.

"To further back our stand we have sent messages to the Greek Orthodox patriarchs in Antakia, Greece, and Istanbul, explaining our position and our demands for reforms and repeating earlier demands for the Jerusalem patriarch to give due attention to the Church and its institutions such as schools in Jordan, and we are seeking arbitration from the heads of the Orthodox Churches in this matter," continued Mr. Akroush.

Committee chairman Fawzi Tueimeh said last April that Patriarch Theodoros was practising dictatorship in financial and administrative affairs and neglecting the interests of the Arab-Christian community in Palestine and Jordan.

Dr. Tueimeh, in an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, urged the Jordanian government to help amend a 1958 law on the Orthodox Church in Jordan to grant citizens of the Arab Orthodox faith their full rights in running their church affairs and carrying out long-sought reforms.

He also said that his community was seeking the appointment of a patriarch who can shoulder his responsibilities towards the community and its institutions.

Dr. Tueimeh announced the committee's rejection of the patriarch's suspension of the three clergymen, a decision motivated by the priests' support of their community's demands.

The Fuheis community's stand was strongly supported by Raouf Abu Jaber, president of the Orthodox Society in Jordan and Palestine, who said that the reforms sought by the Fuheis community are long overdue.

Dr. Abu Jaber repeated calls for the amendment of the 1958 law on the Orthodox Church in Jordan to allow the Arab community to run the affairs of their local churches, schools and other organisations.

Clinton-Netanyahu encounter produces no specific assurances on key factors in peace process

(Continued from page 1)

out, and I have not changed my position," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Mr. Netanyahu had had no contact with Mr. Arafat since he was elected prime minister May 29.

Mr. Clinton said it was essential for the two to hold a meeting, but details of the session would have to be worked out by the two leaders.

Mr. Netanyahu said Tuesday that he could see lifting the closure of the Palestinian territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank if security conditions improve in the area.

"As soon as I deem that the security conditions allow it, I will ease the closure," Mr. Netanyahu said.

He said the Palestinian Authority must clearly demonstrate that "the battle

against terrorism cannot be episodic."

Border closings have prevented thousands of Palestinians from working in Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu recognised that the Palestinian Authority had made progress in the fight against terrorism, but added that full cooperation was needed, including the dismantling of Hamas extremists and maintaining the detention of "terrorists."

If that happens, "our response will be very positive in a number of areas, especially economic," Mr. Netanyahu said.

He also asked the Palestinian Authority to close its offices in Jerusalem in keeping with the provisions of an accord between the two parties that led to mutual recognition between Israelis and Palestinians.

Mr. Clinton rejected any

notion of a summit meeting between Israel and Arab countries under the aegis of the United States, saying it was "premature."

Mr. Netanyahu had earlier presented Mr. Clinton with a list of what he claims are Palestinian peace accord violations.

However, Mr. Netanyahu also struck a positive stance. Sitting in matching arm chairs in the Oval Office, the prime minister said he brought Mr. Clinton "a lot of goodwill from the people of Israel."

Then, in Hebrew, he said his aim was to promote "a real peace process. That's what we want to do. I am sure we will succeed in that."

Posing for pictures, Mr. Netanyahu appeared to be in a good mood. He told the president the Israeli media are "all pussycats," and, again in Hebrew, he said his relation-

ship with Mr. Clinton would be based on "chemistry, not combustion - good chemistry."

Reversing course from two previous Labour-led governments, Mr. Netanyahu last week accused the PLO of breaking its promise to revoke sections of its charter that call for the dismantling of Israel as a Jewish state.

He also said there were "manifest violations by the Palestinian National Authority of solemn commitments."

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Netanyahu's list would include alleged illegal activity in Jerusalem, which has felt the sting of violent attacks.

Mr. Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who held a warmup meeting with Mr. Netanyahu June 25 in Jerusalem, are signalling their sensitivity to Mr. Netanyahu's concerns, espe-

cially in light of recent attacks on Americans in Saudi Arabia. Twenty-four Americans were killed in bombings in Riyadh and Dhahran.

Correction

The Jordan Times article entitled, "Israeli embassy to improve visa application process after receiving complaints about delays," and printed on July 9, read that "The embassy currently has a staff of two handling visa applications." It should have read: The embassy has two staff members receiving visa applications and 15 employees actually charged with processing the applications.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

Outdoor concert by folk artists Sam Braddy and Bob Green at Yarmouk Park, Jerash, Friday at 2:00 p.m.

PLAYS

Two plays entitled "The Return to the Dead of Diddamogah" and "Galaxy" (Arabic) respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

"The Merry Misadventures of Mr. Bean" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"The Effect of Arab Literature in Western Literatures" by Abdul Aziz Qasbi from Thakia at Abdul Hameed Shuman Foundation, Jabbal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITION

"Korean Products Fair '96" at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road, until July 14.

Exhibition of works by Japanese artist Rashedi Diah entitled "The Time of Silence" at Darat Al Funun, Jabbal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists, until July 31.

Arabesk ceramics exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, until July 14.

China praises Washington's policy towards Beijing

BEIJING (R) — Visiting U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake won a warm welcome from China's defence minister Tuesday and Beijing said it saw no reason for pessimism on the future of troubled Sino-U.S. ties.

After months of cross-Pacific bickering over Taiwan, trade, copyright piracy and other diplomatic stumbling blocks, Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian greeted Mr. Lake with words of praise for Washington's policy toward Beijing.

"The engagement policy is being very productive...with the level of engagement being raised," Mr. Chi told Mr. Lake as the two sat down for talks in Beijing's cavernous Great Hall of the People.

"The common interests between China and the United States are far more numerous than the differences," Foreign Ministry spokesman Cui Tiankai told a news briefing later Tuesday.

"There is no reason to be pessimistic about the future of bilateral relations," Mr. Cui said.

Sino-U.S. ties have been chilled in recent months by bitter disputes over Beijing's policies on Taiwan, human rights, intellectual property and nuclear proliferation.

Defence Minister Chi scrapped a visit to the United States last year in protest after Washington allowed a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of rival Taiwan.

Mr. Chi's remarks were the latest signal that boom-bust Sino-U.S. ties are once again on an upswing.

Sino-U.S. ties plummeted last March when China test-fired unarmoured missiles into the sea near Taiwan, prompting Washington to send two aircraft carrier battle groups to the region.

China considers Taiwan to be a rebel province.

"The question of Taiwan has become a very sensitive and important issue in Sino-U.S. bilateral relations," Mr. Chi told reporters, adding Washington should handle the issue prudently to avoid harming the stable development of ties.

At Washington's request, Mr. Lake would meet the chairman of the quasi-official Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait during his visit to Shanghai Wednesday, he said.

U.S. officials have said Mr. Lake will try to promote dialogue between arch-rivals Beijing and Taipei during the Shanghai meeting.

Mr. Lake, the most senior U.S. visitor to China since Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defence Secretary William Perry in 1994, arrived in China Saturday on a trip diplomats have called a vital step towards easing Sino-U.S. relations.

He was expected to touch on economic issues, human rights and nuclear non-proliferation in talks later Tuesday with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, diplomats said.

Talks were also expected to focus on a possible future presidential summit as well as the rescheduling of the defence minister's U.S. trip, they said.

Taiwan was a major topic in talks Monday with Liu Huaqiu, foreign affairs director of China's State Council, when Mr. Lake assured Beijing that Washington was committed to a "one-China" policy that recognises Beijing — and not Taiwan.

Washington would not support Taiwan's efforts to break out of diplomatic isolation by joining the United Nations, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Mr. Lake as saying Monday.

Early last month, Beijing and Washington narrowly averted a multibillion dollar trade war over copyright piracy in China. Weeks later, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to support the renewal of Beijing's most favoured nation trade status.



Chung Soon-Young, the mother of nine-year-old Park Yong-Mi (left) and fifteen-year-old Park Chul (right), sobs as she recounts why she and her children defected from North Korea at a news conference in Seoul Tuesday. Defections are sharply up this year as a result of acute food shortages in North Korea, but those who make it across the border are cut off completely from their relatives who are likely to end up in labour camps (Reuters photo)

Hunger rampant, food thieves shot in North Korea — defector

SEOUL (AFP) — Hunger is so rampant in North Korea that a special decree has been issued to execute food thieves on sight or in public, a defector said Tuesday.

"Food supplies stopped last year in many (rural) areas, causing widespread starvation. Children and old people were abandoned to save food," said Chung Sun-Yong, a North Korean hairdresser who defected to South Korea last month through China.

Mrs. Chung, 37, told a news conference, arranged by intelligence officials here, that many food thieves were shot dead under a special decree issued on Nov. 1 by North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-Il.

"Public executions are common. From November last year through April this year, I saw eight villagers executed in and around my hometown," in the eastern county of Tongchon, she said.

International aid agencies have said hunger in North Korea is widespread but that people are not yet at the point of starvation.

Defectors' statements, made after "debriefing" by southern intelligence officials, are impossible to check.

Mrs. Chung said hunger had driven her to swim across the Yalu River, along with her son, 15, and nine-

year-old daughter, in a northwestern border area where soldiers had strengthened vigilance to prevent food-related defections.

"Corruption is now serious in North Korea because of food shortages," which have forced many people and even soldiers to become food thieves, she said.

Some old people and children abandoned by their families had been found dead or starving in the streets, Mrs. Chung said.

"North Korea is now experiencing an overall moral decadence because of the food crisis," which worsened last summer following devastating floods, she said.

Nowadays, nobody offers guests a meal, and workplaces issue travel permits to encourage their employees to travel for food, she said.

In March, a huge stone monument dedicated to former North Korean President Kim Il-Sung was blown up by saboteurs at a shipyard in the northeastern port of Wonsan, she said.

But she failed to authenticate her accounts, saying she was quoting rumours.

Western experts said the food crisis was a reason for Kim Il-Sung's son and designated heir, Kim Jong-Il, delaying his formal rise to the top posts of state president and secretary general

of the ruling Workers' Party. But most Western experts agree that the junior Kim is the master of North Korea, despite worsening food shortages and economic difficulties.

The junior Kim led a massive memorial service in Pyongyang Monday after North Korea's official media said that the traditional two-year mourning period had been extended for a year.

The defector described her life in the isolated Communist North as "miserable," saying she was divorced in 1987 because her father was arrested on espionage charges.

A small quantity of corn, soybean and millet rations had been distributed to villagers in Tongchon, a farming town, she said.

"But such rations were suspended altogether from March last year."

The defector claimed her father was related to Chung Ju-Yong, founder of South Korea's leading Hyundai conglomerate, who visited his hometown in Tongchon in 1989 during his trip to North Korea for business cooperation.

Before being flown to Seoul in June, the defector said she had lived in hiding at a remote town in northeastern China with the help of ethnic Koreans.

Vandals desecrate historic church

DUBLIN (R) — Vandals have desecrated one of Ireland's most historic churches, plundering graves and smashing mummies which were hundreds of years old. One of five vaults in the crypt of St. Michan's Church in Dublin was completely destroyed after the vandals set a fire in one of the chambers, using rags and paraffin. Further damage was caused to the crypt when firemen used water to put out the blaze. The vault, where about 80 remains were naturally preserved, will never open to the public again. Canon David Pierpoint said, "it's beyond imagination. The last taboo has been broken — respect for the dead. There are seven tombs and in each there would be coffins stacked. In five of those tombs there are no more coffins. All there is is wood, broken bones and smashed skulls." A coffin containing the remains of a four-month-old baby girl was dragged out and the head kicked from the body while the coffin of another young child lay at the foot of the stone steps leading from the vault. Police believe the vandals entered Saturday or Sunday but because of the lack of oxygen in the vault, the fire did not take hold but smouldered until Monday.

German held for smuggling 3,000 Serbian tortoises

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Customs officials in Munich said they had detained a man suspected of smuggling 3,000 rare and protected tortoises from Serbia for an estimated 500,000 marks (\$327,000) over the past five years. The 32-year-old suspect, an out-of-work German auto paint sprayer, was detained last week in the city of Augsburg with 328 tortoises in his luggage, "stacked up like plates," a customs spokesman said.

Would-be exorcists charged with murder

LOS ANGELES (R) — Murder charges were filed against three men involved in an exorcism that went wrong when the woman they were attempting to rid of demons died. The three men, all Koreans who speak no English, were scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday. A court appearance Monday was postponed since no Korean interpreter was available. The Los Angeles County Coroner said Kyung Chung, 53, died in hospital early Thursday of "multiple blunt force trauma." "We believe Mrs. Chung died as a result of internal injuries that she received during a ritual ceremony performed on her by three men who believed they were removing evil spirits from her body," Detective Ron Phillips told reporters.

Elderly woman in 61-hour lift ordeal

HONG KONG (R) — An 80-year-old Hong Kong woman spent 61 hours trapped in a lift because workmen summoned when she sounded the alarm simply stuck an out-of-order notice on the faulty elevator and left. Local media reported Tuesday. Fan Ah-Ho left her apartment Saturday to take her morning exercise in a nearby park when the lift suddenly stopped. The mass circulation Apple Daily said Ms. Fan sounded the alarm and a maintenance crew was promptly summoned. But they just stuck up the notice and left without checking to see who had pressed the emergency buzzer. She was found 61 hours later Monday night, tired, hungry and thirsty but otherwise unharmed. When the crew finally returned to carry out the repairs, the paper said. She was taken to hospital for a check-up but was promptly discharged, it added.

S. Korea's 'trial of the century' hits fresh snags

SEOUL (R) — The "trial of the century" of former South Korean Presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo and 14 others hit fresh snags this week as the two star defendants boycotted proceedings and court officials vowed to press ahead.

One defence lawyer called the proceedings, which could end in death penalties, "a farce."

Last week the defence team walked out saying the proceedings at the Seoul District Criminal Court were being rushed so fast they did not have time to prepare.

On Monday, Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh said there was no point continuing with two state-appointed attorneys and they refused to return to the courtroom for the afternoon session.

"There is no reason for me to attend the trial without my lawyers and so I will leave the court from now on," Mr. Chun told the court Monday.

"I agree with defendant Chun. I believe that this is too much," Mr. Chun's successor Mr. Roh said.

But court officials Tuesday vowed to press ahead with the trial that has become the centrepiece of current President Kim

Young-Sam's campaign to "right the wrongs of history."

"The next trial will be held Thursday as scheduled. If we have to force the defendants to attend the trial, that is what we will do," said a court official. He gave no further details.

The trial began in March with the two, one-time heads of state accused of sedition in connection with a 1979 coup that thrust Mr. Chun to power and treason for the army killings of pro-democracy activists in Kwangju in 1980.

Almost from the start defence lawyers got into an argument with the three-judge panel over live television coverage of the court proceedings.

Mr. Chun's lawyers argued that cameras should be present to record a trial they argued was coming under political pressure, drawing a sharp retort from the senior judge who declared, "this trial is not like the O.J. Simpson case."

Mr. Chun said Monday his appointed lawyers had not tried to set the facts straight even when witnesses gave wrong information during last Thursday's hearing.

22 rescued, more missing as bitter cold and snow grips South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Air force helicopters Tuesday rescued 22 people from South Africa's Drakensberg Mountains where more than 93 have been reported missing amid the heaviest snowfalls in years, the South African Press Agency (SAPA) said.

The helicopters airlifted the 22 people, including two asthmatic children, from the Sani Mountain Pass where they had been trapped in cars since Saturday by heavy snowfalls, an air force spokesman told SAPA.

The group had run out of provisions and were uncomfortable, but were not in a life-threatening situation, SAPA said.

Eight helicopters carrying mountain rescue and medical emergency teams were dispatched Tuesday from the port of Durban to

search for tourists and hikers in the Drakensberg, which lie between the east coast and Johannesburg.

The air force said that besides the 22 rescued Tuesday, another 71 people had been reported missing in the mountain range.

"Numerous calls are being received from the public reporting missing people," the air force said in a statement.

Rescuers said Tuesday they fear for the lives of five hikers trapped on the side of a mountain in the Mont Aux sources area and two ice climbers in the giants castle area some 100 kilometres further south.

Andrew Haliburton of the Mountain Club of South Africa told a Johannesburg newspaper late Monday that the five hikers at Mont Aux sources had "little chance of surviving the night" in the mountains.



U.S. National Security Advisor Anthony Lake (right) meets China's President Jiang Zemin (left) prior to talks in central Beijing Tuesday. Mr. Lake is the most senior visitor to China since the U.S. Secretary of State visited in 1994 and his visit signals that on-again-off-again relations are on an upswing (Reuters photo)

Protestant leaders assails Major on N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — A leading Protestant politician accused British Prime Minister John Major of "fiddling while Ulster burns" Tuesday and urged him reverse a ban on a parade that sparked the worst rioting in the province in years.

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the main voice of pro-British Protestants, said the police ban on an Orange Order parade through a Catholic suburb threatened to collapse an Anglo-Irish peace process.

Mr. Taylor was speaking hours before UUP leader David Trimble was due to hold talks with Mr. Major on defusing a province-wide protest that pushed Northern Ireland back to the brink of violence after two years of an uneasy peace.

Rioting petered out overnight but left a trail of wrecked cars and houses and forced four Catholic families to flee their homes in a Protestant suburb of Belfast after threats.

The UUP, and its allies in the Unionist camp which seeks to keep Northern Ireland British, stayed away from a session of Northern Ireland peace talks Tuesday saying the deteriorating security situation was a higher priority.

"What is terrifying is that the prime minister yet again dilutes the deteriorating situation in Ulster needs a firm hand, needs immediate decisions..." Mr. Taylor said.

There was no sign of any solution to the standoff over a banned march by the Protestant Orange Order at Portadown, 40 kilometres south of Belfast, which is the focal point of a province-wide outburst of protest.

Deputy Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan told the BBC the worst civil unrest in the province for years was a "deliberate attempt to stretch our resources" and appealed to Protestant and Catholic leaders to negotiate an end to the distur-

bances.

Mr. Flanagan publicly acknowledged for the first time that the killing Monday of a Catholic taxi driver at Lurgan, near the focal point of the Protestant protest at Portadown, may have been carried out by Protestant loyalist gunmen.

"Obviously we are desperately concerned. It has all the hallmarks of a sectarian act," he told BBC Radio.

Northern Ireland has been spared such acts for almost two years because of a truce by loyalist gunmen battling to maintain British rule of the province against a campaign by the Catholic-backed IRA guerrillas to end it.

But the rioting has echoes of similar showdowns in 1969 and 1974 which heralded the start of a 27-year political and sectarian conflict called the troubles.

Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, condemned what he called "this orchestrated campaign of intimidation and the killing of a Catholic."

Hundreds of police maintained their vigil at Drumcree Church at Portadown to prevent thousands of Orange Order marchers parading down the Catholic Garvaghy Road whose residents appealed for the march to be banned.

Protestant politicians said the ban was a sop to the Irish Republican Army and its Sinn Fein political wing to coax the guerrillas into declaring a new ceasefire which would permit them to be represented at Anglo-Irish peace talks.

A similar showdown in Drumcree last year was ended when a token parade by Orange marchers was allowed to pass through Garvaghy Road, home to several thousand Catholics.

But Adams said he opposed any such compromise and would not ask the residents of Garvaghy Road "to lie down and let the Orange men walk all over us."

China says not too late to restore Taiwan ties

BEIJING (R) — China has told Taiwan it is not too late to soothe fraught relations and urged Taipei to act without delay to end hostilities by proving it does not seek independence and is committed to reunification.

"It is not too late to mend the fold, even after some of the sheep have been lost," China's official Xinhua News Agency said in a commentary issued late Monday.

The commentary, a means Beijing uses to send messages to Taiwan in the absence of official ties between the two rivals, urged Taipei to resume talks "without any delay" to end hostilities across the Taiwan Strait.

China rebuffed at the weekend a proposal from rival Taiwan to resume long-suspended talks, saying the island must prove it was committed to the principle of a single China.

Taipei insisted negotiations come first.

However, the Xinhua commentary appeared to leave room for Beijing to roll back from its headline stance, saying "history has again given the leaders of the Taiwan authorities a chance to decide where they will go."

"We hope that they will make a sensible choice," it said.

It repeated a June 22 statement in which the quasi-official Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait that handles ties to Taipei to "take action without delay as the first step under the principle of one China to end the hostile situation between the two sides... and hold talks with us."

The semi-official talks began in 1993 amid a thaw in relations but have been suspended by Beijing since June 1995 when Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui visited the United States.

A furious Beijing cited that visit as evidence Mr. Lee wanted Taiwan's inde-

pendence and not reunification with the mainland.

It has demanded that Taiwan offer concrete deeds, rather than words, to prove its commitment to eventual reunification.

"This is another effort to improve and develop relations across the Taiwan Strait and to promote the process of peaceful reunification," Xinhua said of its commentary.

It repeated an eight-point proposal made in January 1995 by Chinese president and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin to improve ties and held out what appeared to be an olive branch.

"We have noticed that one year later, leaders of the Taiwan authorities, under internal and external pressure, made a certain response to Mr. Jiang's proposal," Xinhua said without giving details as to what action had won Beijing's approval.

"It is our hope that this is not only a gesture," Xinhua said.

Taiwan called on Beijing last week to start mutual visits across the strait by officials of their two quasi-official organisations that handle talks in the absence of official ties, saying either side could make the first step.

Senior Taiwan officials have said it was unlikely in the light of China's rebuff that talks could resume for some time. One negotiator said talks were unlikely before the end of 1996.

Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a rebel province, not entitled to a state government nor to international recognition, since the Nationalists fled to the island after losing China's civil war in 1949.

China has said Mr. Lee is merely paying lip service to his government's avowed goal of reunification with China and is secretly pushing the island toward independence.



Liz Taylor at funeral

LOS ANGELES (R) — Elizabeth Taylor attended the funeral Monday of a friend who died of a heart attack.

The actress, 51, was seen at the funeral of a friend who died of a heart attack.

The funeral was held in a private chapel in Los Angeles.

The deceased was a close friend of the actress.

The funeral was attended by several family members.

The actress was seen in the crowd at the funeral.

The funeral was a private affair.

The deceased was a well-known figure in the entertainment industry.

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Delegates at the 11th International Conference on AIDS view the poster exhibit at the trade show at B.C. Place Monday. Vancouver is hosting 15,000 delegates at the conference (Reuter photo)

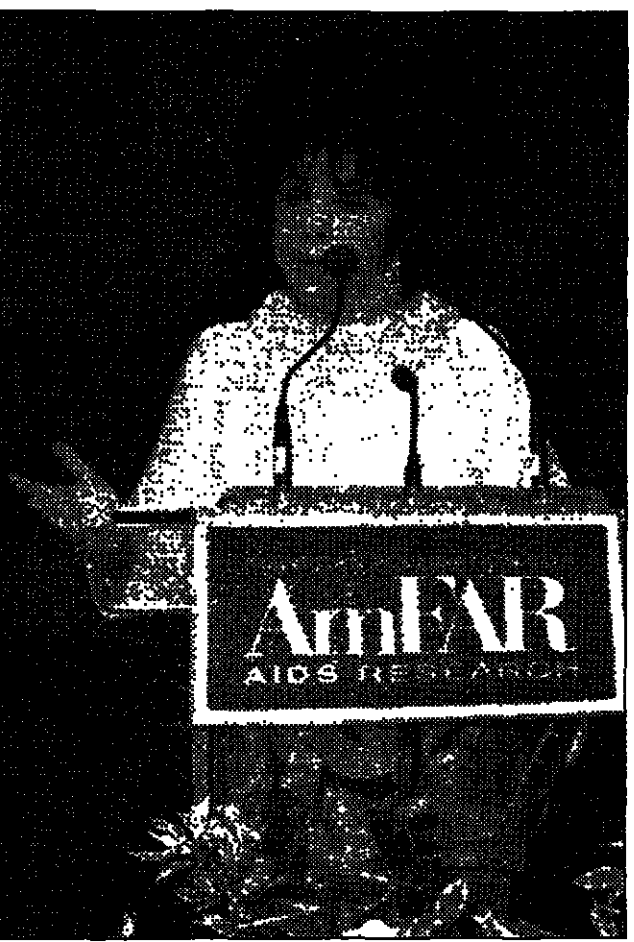
Liz Taylor attacks Canada, U.S. on AIDS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — Actress and AIDS activist Elizabeth Taylor bitterly attacked the U.S. and Canadian governments Monday, accusing Washington of committing "premeditated murder" in failing to fund AIDS programmes.

She told a private reception at the 11th International Conference on AIDS that euphoria over medical advances did little to dispel the reality — that most people with HIV do not have access to drugs or other treatments.

Ms. Taylor, one of the first celebrity AIDS campaigners and a founder and national chairwoman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR), attacked U.S. reluctance to fund programmes to provide sterile needles to drug users, as is done in some European countries, as "a glaring example of politics and social squeamishness."

"In a society that proclaims to value human life above all, the deliberate withholding of the means to self-protection is more than passive neglect. It is a measured act of premeditated murder."



Elizabeth Taylor speaks at an American Foundation for AIDS Research gathering at the Vancouver Art Gallery on the second day of the 11th International Conference on AIDS Monday (Reuter photo)

Ms. Taylor told the audience, which included U.S. Health Secretary Donna Shalala, that too much emphasis was being placed on purely scientific research. "At home in the United States such thinking is evidenced by the unwillingness of Congress to strengthen and empower the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)," she said of the agencies which deal in part with public policy issues.

"And... I understand that here in Canada, the government isn't sure whether they want to fund AIDS research at all. Apparently they are considering whether to fully fund, or even renew, the budget to support the National AIDS Strategy," she added to loud cheers.

"In a country as wealthy and apparently progressive as Canada, frankly I would have expected something better."

People in developing countries were being condemned to death by the high cost of drugs, she said.

"While the high hopes of effective treatments — and even a vaccine — may now be closer to us than ever before, our enthusiasm should not distract us from the terrible discrimination that will occur," she added.

Dr. William Paul, director of the Office for AIDS Research at the NIH, agreed. "Even if these drugs turn out to be everything we had hoped for, a tremendous amount must still be done to make sure those who need treatment are treated," he told the reception.

Countries like the United States should help Africa and Asia if only because they were members of the world community. But self-interest was also involved, he noted. "We cannot predict how the virus will evolve," he said. "We do not know what we will be facing in the next generation."

Among those loudly hooting their support for Ms. Taylor's remarks was conference co-chairman, Dr. Martin Schechter.

"It helps," he told Reuters after. "If the media are here and report what she says, then 100 million people will hear it."

Dr. Schechter also criticised Canada's AIDS policies. "It is embarrassing, frankly, for us Canadians to be hosting the world when we don't even have our own affairs in order," he said.

Meanwhile striking a cautiously upbeat stance, AIDS researchers Monday tempered euphoria over new combination treatments with a warning that the search for a cure was far from over.

Speakers at the 11th International Conference on AIDS drew cheers from nearly 15,000 delegates as they summed

up recent breakthroughs in combination drug treatments, which for the first time offer hope that AIDS may no longer be a death sentence.

"These are major advances...but we haven't reached the goal yet," said Dr. Robert Gallo, a pioneering AIDS researcher credited with co-discovering the virus.

"The jury's still out," said Dr. Michelle Daniels, a general practitioner from Princeton, New Jersey, who treats AIDS patients.

Dr. Gallo urged more study of vaccines and efforts to understand recently-identified chemicals in the immune system that may explain why some people can live for years with the HIV infection without getting sick.

Scientists also began reviewing the latest data on a number of potential AIDS vaccines, but all of them are still preliminary, and scientific and ethical questions abound on how to best proceed on vaccine research. Most scientists believe a safe and powerful vaccine is still many years away.

"This is going to be the year of protease and viral load tests. Vaccine development is still the key to eradicating the epidemic," said Eric Sandstrom, a scientist from Sweden who led a discussion on vaccines Monday.

Hurricane Bertha swirls towards Turks, Bahamas

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Hurricane Bertha raced through the open Atlantic early Tuesday, building steam and graduating to a deadly Category 3 storm as it headed toward the low-lying islands of the Bahamas after lashing the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Hurricane warnings were posted from the Dominican Republic north to the Turks and Caicos and central Bahamas. Forecasters said there was about a 30 per cent chance that Bertha could slam into the south Florida coastline by early Thursday, but said the storm was more likely to curve slightly north.

Bertha, the first hurricane of the Atlantic season, passed over the U.S. Virgin Islands Monday, ripping roofs off homes and buildings and toppling powerlines and trees. The eye skirted Puerto Rico, leaving thousands without power and running water but sparing the island the worst of its winds and rain.

"Bertha strengthened dramatically during the night," said Max Mayfield, a forecaster at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

"We now have a major hurricane and it's going to be a major hurricane for a couple of days."

At 5 a.m. EDT (0900 GMT), Bertha was located about 300 kilometres east-southeast of the Turks and Caicos, or at latitude 20.7 north and longitude 68.4 west. The storm was moving west-northwest at 18 mph (30 kph).

A hurricane graduates to Category 3 status when its maximum sustained winds top 111 mph (188 kilometres). Such a storm is capable of deadly destruction and flooding.

Although Bertha was expected to skirt the Turks and Caicos, passing slightly north of the islands, residents of the British colony were certain to feel its dangerous winds, forecasters said.

There were indications that Bertha might curve slightly more north, keeping it off the coast of Florida, the forecasters said.

Hurricane watches were posted for the northern coast of Haiti and the northern Bahamas, including Nassau.

Bertha claimed its first fatality when a man from the U.S. mainland who lived in Puerto Rico drowned while surfing.

Local television and radio reports Monday evening said that a second man was killed in the eastern municipality of Rio Grande when a post holding powerlines fell on his car.

In San Juan, hurricane force winds arrived about 5 p.m. EDT (2100 GMT) and left an estimated 56,000 people without electricity and 90,000 without water, authorities said.

The death toll could climb if reports proved true that a ship with up to 40 people on board had capsized northeast of Puerto Rico. The U.S. Coast Guard received word from a ham radio operator in Venezuela that the "Jamaica" was taking on water northeast of Puerto Rico, with 12 to 40 people on board.

Five ships were dispatched to search for the vessel after the storm subsided and a search plane flew between Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, but nothing was found.

Bertha was the third major

Chechens threaten Russian prisoners as fighting rages

MOSCOW (R) — Rebel fighters killed at least six Russian soldiers in a fierce battle in southwestern Chechnya Tuesday, taking a shaky truce in the breakaway region to the brink of collapse.

And in a further sign of rising tension, a rebel spokesman said the separatists had decided to shoot all Russian prisoners if Moscow troops broke a truce agreed by President Boris Yeltsin and rebel chief Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev in late May.

"The northeastern command of Chechen forces officially announces that if the Russian troops carry out any provocative actions against civilians and renew warfare, all prisoners of war will be shot immediately," said spokesman Movladi Udogov, who contacted Reuters by telephone.

Eyewitnesses said troops had sealed off the village of Gekhi, some 30 kilometres southwest of the regional capital Grozny, early Tuesday. Explosions and machinegun fire could be heard as helicopters and warplanes circled the village.

But General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, Russia's top commander in Chechnya, told Interfax News Agency that rebels had attacked troops near Gekhi. A Russian military commander later told the agency that at least six servicemen had been killed.

On Monday Gen. Tikhomirov had ordered the rebels to free all servicemen they were holding prisoner by 6 p.m. (1400 GMT) Tuesday or face Russian strikes.

"The gangs decided to preempt our action and thus answered to our demands," Interfax quoted him as saying.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the fighting erupted after several bodies of captured Russian servicemen were found in the strongly pro-rebel village, but the report could not be confirmed.

Russia sent troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush an independence bid and more than 30,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Gen. Tikhomirov, who has been sceptical about peace talks Mr. Yeltsin launched during his campaign for reelection, said his forces would take "the most resolute action against armed bandits."

"We have more than enough strength and means to do that," said the general.

The rebels said fighting in Gekhi was only one episode

in a string of clashes, which they said were provoked by Russian troops across Chechnya.

Mr. Udogov said rebel chief-of-staff Aslan Maskhadov met top separatist commanders Monday and told them to be ready for any turn of events. He said Russian troops had shelled Chechen villages at least 52 times since Monday evening, killing five people and injuring 18.

But Mr. Maskhadov said the rebels were not choosing to fight.

"The Chechen side appeals to end the impending war before it is too late and to defend the Moscow and Nazran accords," Mr. Udogov quoted his statement as saying.

He was referring to agreements signed on June 10 by Russian officials and rebel negotiators in the southern town of Nazran, not far from the Chechen border.

Political analysts have said Mr. Yeltsin, who won four more years in the Kremlin in a July 3 runoff election, might now ignore the truce and get tough on Chechnya.

Mr. Yeltsin's press office said the Kremlin leader had discussed the situation in Chechnya with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, but it gave no details.

Meanwhile Russia's security chief, Gen. Alexander Lebed, said in an interview published Tuesday, he would be prepared to discuss the secession of Chechnya.

"For my part, I would be ready to discuss a possible secession of Chechnya," Gen. Lebed told Italy's La Repubblica newspaper in an interview from Moscow.

"But I have my doubts about the self-sufficiency of an independent Chechnya," Gen. Lebed added. "Remaining part of Russia would be more convenient for them than for us."

Lebed, a general appointed by President Boris Yeltsin before winning last week's election second round against Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov, is due to travel to Chechnya soon.

Mr. Yeltsin agreed a peace deal with Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev on May 27 in Moscow as part of a pre-election detente which also swept leading hawks from the Kremlin, prompting speculation of a less heavy-handed approach.

Gen. Lebed said Mr. Yeltsin had been "repeatedly duped both by the (Chechen) military and political leaders."

Yeltsin names career KGB officer as top counter-spy

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin named career KGB officer Nikolai Kovalyov Tuesday as director of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), which includes counter-intelligence, the Presidential Press Service said.

Mr. Kovalyov became acting head of the FSB after Mr. Yeltsin sacked former director, Mikhail Barsukov, last month.

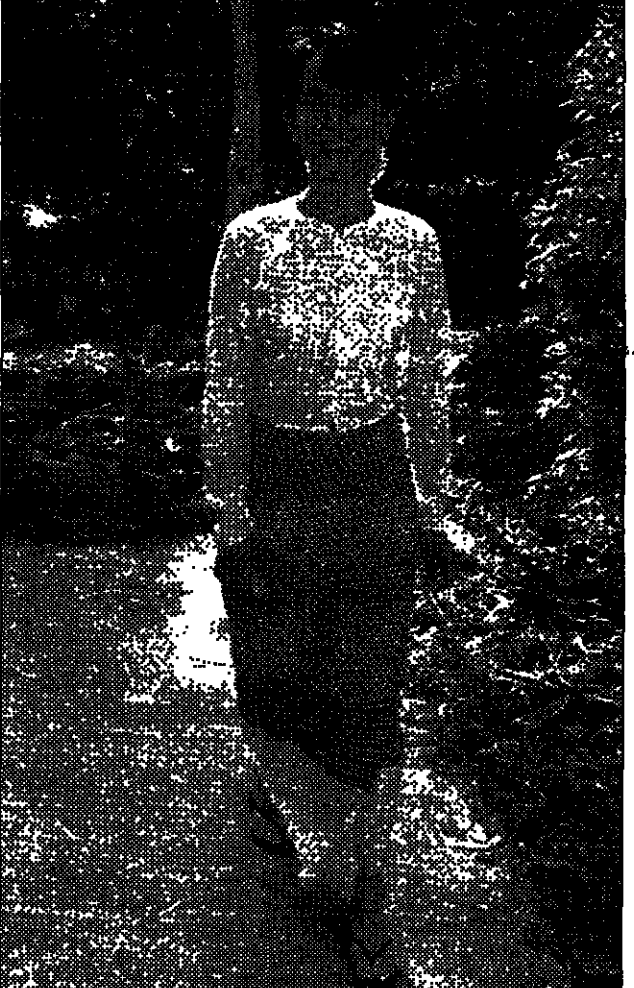
The little known Kovalyov, born in 1949, started his career in the Soviet KGB secret police in 1974. He rose through the ranks and when the KGB was dissolved as the Soviet Union was falling apart in 1991, remained in the service.

He became deputy head of the FSB, then named the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service (FSK), in 1994. The Russian media reported that Mr. Kovalyov was in charge of economic counter-intelligence and was a qualified professional.

Mr. Barsukov won expanded powers for the FSB in the course of its reorganization.

Mr. Yeltsin fired Mr. Barsukov on June 20 in a reshuffle of military and security forces intended to boost his chances of securing reelection in the second round of Russia's presidential election last Wednesday.

In the shadowy world of Kremlin politics, Mr. Barsukov was seen as a protégé of Alexander Korzhakov, Mr. Yeltsin's personal bodyguard and friend whom he reluctantly fired on the same day.



Burmese opposition leader and 1991 Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi strolls through the garden of her Rangoon house Tuesday, a year after she was released from six years of house arrest. Ms. Suu Kyi said she still insists on having dialogue with the ruling military government and wants to bring in democracy for the Burmese people (Reuter photo)

Kashmir violence clouds India's election plan

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Fresh killings and the detention of 19 journalists by Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir have clouded New Delhi's plan to bring peace to the region by holding local elections, analysts and residents said Tuesday.

A splinter separatist group held 19 journalists hostage for 10 hours Monday after local newspapers refused to obey the group's order to close temporarily when they did not publish one of its statements.

The seizure of the journalists coincided with an all-party meeting in New Delhi that approved Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's plan to hold state assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir in September, the first in nine years.

"Do you think the situation is conducive for the so-called assembly polls?" asked Abdul Ghani Bhat, leader of the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, which groups 30 separatist religious or political groups.

"Over a two dozen people have died in the past couple of days and 19 journalists were kidnapped yesterday," he said, referring to the killing of migrant workers by militants.

Mr. Bhat said the journalists' ordeal and continued killings threw into question New Delhi's claim that violence was on the wane in Jammu and Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in mainly Hindu India.

"Every day at least 10 people die in militancy-related incidents and still

Suu Kyi exploiting death of consul — Burmese press

RANGOON (AFP) — Burma's state-run media accused opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi Tuesday of exploiting the death in prison last month of Leo Nichols, her close friend and honorary consul for four European countries.

Commentaries in the state-owned press called Ms. Suu Kyi the "Western queen mother" and accused her of trying to "assemble a crowd" by organising a Buddhist ceremony for Nichols seven days after his death on June 22.

The commentary also gave the first publicised official account of the death of Nichols, saying he had been treated well during his stay in Rangoon's notorious Insein Prison and had not been tortured.

Nichols, an Anglo-Burmese who was honorary consul for Finland, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland, died of an apparent stroke in his cell soon after beginning a three-year term for unauthorised use of a fax and telephone.

Ms. Suu Kyi was accused of using Nichols' death as an excuse to draw international attention to Burma, inappropriately using Buddhist rites and trying to organise a Christian memorial service.

The authorities had given permission for the memorial service as long as it would be purely religious and was not politicised, the commentary said.

"If it is done to assemble (people) to make political gain, then the situation can be very confusing," it added.

The commentary said the Christian service was being planned with the help of a diplomat who was only identified as coming from the same country as Madonna, the American singer.

The United States has recently stepped up its criticism of Burma's military junta over the human rights situation and a crackdown against the opposition, and has threatened to impose a range of economic sanctions against Burma.

The commentary said it deplored international media reports on Mr. Nichols' death, which it said were exaggerated and assumed he had been tortured.

"Compared to the rest of the prisoners, he was placed under the 'good' category and kept better than others," it said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1979
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Director General:
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Counting cost of necessity

THE SOLE purpose of the meeting that Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti had with members of Parliament on Monday was apparently to discuss the issue of lifting subsidies on bread prices. As it turned out, however, the heated debate went beyond the issue at hand and reached almost every economic ill we suffer from.

Starting from highlighting the problems of poverty, unemployment, the high cost of living and low incomes by citizens, on to demanding an end to corruption, cutting the budget deficit, indebtedness and smuggling, the debate covered almost everything.

Only a verdict, on whether the people should accept a new form of bread subsidy or not, remained to be reached.

But if there was any real lesson to be learned from the meeting, it is that Jordanians have come to openly express belief in the existence of a "confidence gap" between them and their government. Witness the lengths to which Mr. Kabariti went in trying to assure deputies that his government really meant what it said when it said "we're just changing the form of bread subsidies and not lifting those subsidies (for Jordanians)."

Aware that Jordanians no longer want to believe government pledges and promises, especially after the lessons they have learned from dealing with previous administration on bread and butter, diesel and petrol issues, the prime minister spent most time and expended most energy on trying to say that this time the government-people relationship is going to be different.

So why did the representatives of the people find it difficult to readily believe him?

For one thing, most of them thought it hard not to believe that subsidies on bread must be gradually terminated in the coming few years in accordance with guidelines set by international creditors to end all subsidies in the Kingdom, on a phase-out basis.

Secondly, the deputies would have also found it difficult to believe that even if the government honoured for ever its pledge to pay cash hand-outs to compensate for the higher price of bread there can be no guarantee that the cash rebates will lose value with rising inflation. A kilogramme of bread will continue to be a kilogramme of bread forever, they might have reasoned, according to simple and pure mathematics. But the JD15,260 cash hand-outs replacing the subsidy will not carry the same value next year and will be worth less and less in 1998 and beyond. Should the subsidy on bread continue, the people will continue to eat bread; but if the subsidy is replaced by a cash hand-out, inflation will eat up the cash, leaving bread without subsidy within a period of several or even few years, according to this reasoning.

Thirdly, can the government be so sure that the "supply allowance" to be added to monthly salaries will be spent by the poor on purchasing bread? Isn't it highly probable that the poor would use the cash rebate to smoke more cigarettes or drink more cheap liquor to temporarily soothe their miseries? Recall food stamps in the U.S. and why it has been decided to phase them out and replacing them by other means of subsidies for the poor and needy?

With these difficult questions on the minds of the people and their representatives, the government can understand its own difficulties in fending for itself on the issue of bread prices.

In toughing it out, though, Mr. Kabariti will rest in the belief that it is not his or this government's fault that he has to do what has to be done in order to maintain the economy. Had previous governments acted to lift subsidies gradually, as they should have done in the framework of their responsibilities, it would have been much easier for Mr. Kabariti's or any other government now in office to cope with Jordan's economic problems. But the fact that they have not shouldered that burden should not undermine the prime minister's and his colleagues' resolve and determination to do what is necessary and right for the whole country.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i called for the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships to continue their close cooperation and coordination to further cement national unity, on the one hand, and to face the Israeli expansionist plans, on the other. Mahmoud Rimawi said that only a solid Palestinian-Jordanian front can serve as the best guarantee in the face of Israel's drive to draw a wedge between the two people and their leaderships. Jordanian-Palestinian relations have a special, unique character since the two peoples on the sides of the River Jordan form a real unity in geographical, demographic, social, economic and cultural terms and as such they are bound to work together to try to achieve the common goals, said the writer. Indeed, as the Jordanians back the Palestinians in their drive to achieve their independent state on Palestinian soil, they, at the same time, strongly believe in the unity of the two sides of the river and independence should not stand in the way of reunification. But, he added, the stumbling block in the way of both independence and reunification is the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

Washington Watch

Arabs and the struggle for U.S. public opinion

By Dr. James J. Zogby

HISTORICALLY, U.S. voters have displayed little interest in foreign affairs. Given its dominant place in the news during the past three decades, however, the Middle East may be an exception. While not experts in all Middle East issues, many Americans have developed a rather sophisticated understanding of the region.

This is one of the conclusions of a recent poll conducted in part for Al Qabas by the John Zogby Group of New York. A national sampling of 901 likely voters were polled during the third week of June. The results have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 per cent.

Given the perception many American voters have of the recently elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he may face difficulties if he pursues his stated policies towards the peace process.

Our poll shows that Mr. Netanyahu has a significantly lower standing than that of his predecessor Shimon Peres. When asked whether they view Mr. Peres favourably or unfavourably, American voters gave the former prime minister a 45 to 9 favourable rating. Mr. Netanyahu's ratings, on the other hand, are a much lower 17 to 15. This may place the new prime minister at a disadvantage in the struggle for U.S. public support since many Arab leaders with whom he must deal have significantly higher ratings.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, for example, has the best standing of all current Middle East leaders, with a 29 to 8 rating. King Hussein also has a net positive standing, with 34 per cent of U.S. voters viewing him favourably.

Even Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who has been subjected to a 25-year-long campaign of vilification in the U.S.

(which even intensified after the signing of a peace accord), has shown a significant upswing in popularity. Mr. Arafat's favourable rating is now 26 per cent, while his negative is still a high 41 per cent. By comparison, Mr. Arafat's rating places him ahead of U.S. presidential candidate Ross Perot, whose rating is 26 to 62.

The only Arab Middle Eastern leader at a disadvantage with U.S. voters is Syria's President Assad who was only viewed favourably by 9 per cent of those polled; 31 per cent viewed him unfavourably.

It must be noted that an average of 50 per cent of all voters were unfamiliar enough with these leaders to judge them. But this leaves a substantial number of Americans who are aware of, and have attitudes about, Middle East leaders — in fact, this represents a larger number than those who were aware of the candidates in the recent Republican presidential primaries.

What the John Zogby poll also establishes is that the new Israeli government may encounter difficulties with U.S. opinion if it attempts to slow down the peace process.

Americans feel involved in this process and are proud of the role their government has played in hosting the many peace signing ceremonies during the past two and one-half years.

Most U.S. voters believe that Mr. Netanyahu will either slow down the peace process (38 per cent) or reject it completely (13 per cent). Only 14 per cent believe that he will keep it on course.

This conclusion as to what they expect Mr. Netanyahu will do, contrasts sharply with what U.S. voters feel that the new Israeli government should do. Fifty-one per cent of American voters feel that Mr. Netanyahu

should continue on schedule with the peace process.

Should President Clinton apply pressure or criticise Mr. Netanyahu if he slows down the peace process (and about one third think that Clinton should apply such pressure), the president will not encounter a negative voter reaction. According to the Zogby poll findings, 63 per cent said that an alienation or criticism of the Israeli prime minister would not affect their vote in November. Ten per cent said that such behaviour by the president would make it more likely for them to vote for him, while 10 per cent said it would make them less likely to vote for him.

By a margin of 2 and a half to 1, U.S. voters also felt that Mr. Clinton's tilt toward Mr. Peres in the recent election was wholly appropriate.

Attitude towards Middle East countries and policy

The attitude of the U.S. public towards most Arab countries has shown a marked improvement during the past three years. With the exception of Egypt which dropped some 13 points in positive ratings (although it continues to have the highest rating of all Arab countries with 51 per cent positive to 14 per cent negative), most other Arab countries show an increase in their positive ratings.

The big winners are Kuwait and Saudi Arabia which have experienced dramatic turnaround. In 1993 the John Zogby poll found that both countries had a virtually identical 36-37 per cent positive rating as compared with a 41 per cent negative rating. Today Kuwait is viewed favourably by 40 per cent of U.S. voters and only viewed negatively by 30 per cent. Saudi Arabia,

likewise, has a 40 per cent to 34 per cent rating. Jordan, too, now has a slightly better rating that it did in 1993.

While Americans traditionally shun foreign involvement, our poll shows that U.S. voters remain committed to the security of Middle East countries. The commitment of U.S. voters to maintain the security of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia is statistically the same as their commitment to Israel. Egypt follows close behind. This is significant because Israel has built a powerful lobby and waged expensive public relations campaigns to achieve its favourable position in U.S. public opinion. It is remarkable, therefore, to see U.S. voters making nearly identical commitments to Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

One of the most interesting findings of the poll is the rock-solid antipathy towards Iraq. As in previous polls, U.S. voters continue to support sanctions against the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein. Seventy-eight per cent favour maintaining the sanctions. U.S. voters seem firm on this issue. They apparently cannot even be induced to change their view. Even if it meant that gas prices would be lowered by removing the sanctions, 71 per cent of voters would still oppose lifting the sanctions.

What our poll shows is a greater understanding of Middle East issues among U.S. voters. This understanding which leans decidedly in the direction of peace indicates a reservoir of support for Arab positions which should be better exploited, particularly now when the Middle East and the peace process itself are in such a difficult and tension-filled situation.

The results of this poll are especially important for Arab leaders to consider given the events of June

and July, 1996. The election of a hardline Likud government in Israel, the positive outcome of the Cairo summit, the tragic terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia, and the expected visits of Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Hosni Mubarak to Washington — will all combine to keep the Middle East as a central concern for U.S. policy makers and public opinion.

Despite U.S. presidential elections in November, Washington may still take a positive stand regarding both the peace process and Arab security needs. Our poll shows that there is strong public support for such policies and that Arabs have some strong positives that can work to their advantage.

But good results will not occur without an Arab strategy to remain engaged in the U.S. public debate.

Already pro-Israeli groups in the U.S. are attempting to project the Arab summit as a "threat" to peace and a major campaign is underway to isolate Syria, discredit Lebanon, denigrate the Palestinian leadership and even portray Saudi Arabia as unstable and not a trustworthy U.S. ally.

To some extent public policy, especially in an election year, will be shaped by public perception. Our poll shows that Arabs have significant resources in public opinion that must be strengthened.

Those Arab states with strong positive ratings should use those assets to their advantage and build a campaign in the U.S. to support Arab positions on peace and security.

The battle for public opinion is a constant struggle. It must be continuously fought or the battle can be lost.

AIDS — first the good news

By Gwynne Dyer

"WE CANNOT claim victory until the fat lady really sings," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, at the eleventh international conference on AIDS in Vancouver. "She hasn't sung yet, but I think she is getting ready to sing."

The Vancouver conference, which opened on July 7, marks the first time that researchers think they are getting close to effective treatments for AIDS and its precursor, HIV infection. New combinations of drugs, particularly the class known as protease-inhibitors, are producing startling cases of remission from full-blown AIDS and have reduced the HIV virus in the blood of HIV-positive people to undetectable levels for up to half a year.

If these early results are borne out by further tests, and if the new drugs continue to suppress the HIV virus over a period of years without severe side-effects, then this is wonderful news for millions of HIV-positive people.

More precisely, it is wonderful news for those HIV-positive people who live in countries that can afford the \$15,000-\$20,000 annual per capita cost of the treatment, and in social environments that let them follow a regimen of treatment involving up to 20 pills a day and strict dietary rules. It means nothing to the other 90 per cent of HIV-infected people, who live in the Third World.

In the United States, an estimated one in 92 young men was HIV-positive in 1992. Until now, that was a delayed death sentence for

the vast majority of those infected: HIV takes an average of ten years to develop into AIDS, but there was no cure.

In all, perhaps a million Americans carry the HIV virus, out of a population of 260 million. A million nightmares — but the AIDS plague has never threatened the economic and social fabric of the United States or other developed countries. And maybe now medicine will provide an escape from the nightmare, for those who can afford it.

Elsewhere, the situation is very different. In Uganda, according to a 1994 report of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, "it is estimated that half the population over 15 years of age is HIV positive." Uganda has no money to save these people even if a cure is found — so half its adult population is destined to die in the next ten years.

This is a level of casualties normally associated only with scenarios of nuclear holocausts, but it is happening in Uganda now. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated two years ago that life expectancy in Uganda, projected at 59 years before AIDS began decimating the population, will fall to only 32 years by 2010.

The rest of west, central and east Africa faces a catastrophe only slightly less dramatic: over half the hospital beds in several big cities in the region are now occupied by AIDS patients. Even South Africa, where health care and nutrition are well above the continental average, now has an HIV infection rate of 7.6 per cent.

Infection rates are also so high in some non-African countries that they have

drastic implications for population size. The same 1994 U.S. Census Bureau report estimated that in Brazil, Haiti and Thailand, plus the 13 worst-affected African countries, the cumulative AIDS toll by 2010 will be so great as to leave them with 121 million fewer people than was previously forecast.

New protease-inhibiting drugs will save almost none of these lives — nor those of the tens of millions of people in Asian countries like India and the Philippines where HIV infections are spreading just as fast, but are less well reported. The hope dawning in Vancouver is only hope for the relatively rich. But there is hope of a less expensive variety dawning elsewhere.

Two recent public-health programmes, one in Africa and one in Asia, have shown tremendous success in reducing the rate of HIV infection. Three years ago, the Tanzanian government and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine selected twelve villages along the shores of Lake Victoria where HIV was spreading through the population at the rate of 1 per cent a year.

In half, they gave the village health centres extra training and low-cost drugs to deal with other sexually-transmitted diseases thought to be a factor in HIV infection and education on diseases. In the other six villages, they left things as they were.

At the end of two years, the difference was stark. New HIV infections in the six villages that got extra attention were 42 per cent lower than in the others. "Now, for the first time, we have a study which has shown that a relatively

simple intervention in one of the world's poorest countries has a very substantial impact," said Professor David Mahey of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. "Thailand is a far richer country than Tanzania, but there the same effect has been produced nationwide."

Working with 1991 data, the U.S. Census Bureau predicted that AIDS deaths in Thailand would soar so fast that the average lifespan would fall from 75 to only 45 years — and that the country's population would actually fall one per cent by 2010. The man most responsible for turning this situation around is Mechai Viravaidya, the director of the Population and Community Development Association, also known as the "condom king".

Mechai's genius for publicity is epitomised by the "Cabbages and Condoms" restaurant he runs in central Bangkok. He first made his name with a brilliantly successful birth-control programme in the 1970s and 80s: with full government support but no compulsion, he helped reduce the size of the average Thai family from seven children to only two in just 20 years.

In 1991, when the Thais realised the size of their AIDS problem, Mechai was the obvious man to turn to. "We made a projection that if nothing were done from 1991 onwards to the year 2000, we would have between 2 million and 4 million HIV-positive cases," he told me late last year. "The situation is actually far worse in other (Asian) countries, but they don't know their exact problem, so they sit there and smile. They expect people to fall over in the streets. That's not what

happens with AIDS."

"We knew that if we did nothing, these would be the numbers, these would be the economic and social consequences. As a result, we did a lot. Public education was available on television and radio, compulsory in fact. Every hour, there must be a half-minute of AIDS education on every radio and every television station."

"There is AIDS education in the last two years of all primary schools. AIDS education was done in offices and factories, and in the rural communities through the schools and the village committees. And we also cooperated with the movie and television industry: if they produce regular films and soap operas with an AIDS theme added in, the government subsidised them."

"As a result, 1991 was the year that new HIV cases peaked in Thailand. From 1991 to today, we have seen a 77 per cent decline in sexually transmitted diseases, and we believe a very similar decline in new cases of HIV. The projections for the year 2000 are no longer relevant. Behaviour change has occurred."

What Thailand has done, any other country can do. What Tanzania is doing, even the poorest countries can afford to do, or can get enough foreign aid to do. The heartening news out of Vancouver will give little solace to the millions of doomed HIV-positive people in poor countries, but there are ways to keep tens of millions more from joining them.

Nocturne

By Ali Kassay

"If music be the food of love, play on." I may never know who first introduced this sentence by the Bard into Jordan, nor when he did it. However, I would be willing to wager my shirt that whoever it may have been, knew little at the time to what extent this sentiment would come to animate the soul of Jordanians, particularly those in the catering and entertainment industries.

Now, our fair capital city boasts many restaurants, watering holes, and similar places of entertainment. Some of these offer adequate cuisine, and the occasional establishment boasts this offering with a reasonably well-stocked cellar. But these are mere details, taken in with an absent minded nod by most Jordanian revellers. The real attraction for the Jordanian pleasure seeker is the band of musicians or the disc-jockey that performs at the establishment where they choose to don the nosebag.

These performers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and some of them pursue unrelated careers during the hours of day; but come evening, they are united by one common ambition: to be heard. Such is their devotion to their art, that they are determined to entertain the audience at all cost. Despite the reluctance of the audience, if need be. And they insist on being heard. "Louder is better" seems to be the dictum by which they live. They equip themselves with a public address system designed to make itself heard across ploughed fields and against gale force wind, and install it in a small restaurant; then, let it blast.

Should any of the evening's revellers attempt to distract his friend, relation, or business associate with whom he is breaking bread with idle chatter, then by golly, he has another thing coming to him. As a result, most dinners out in Amman are reduced to a challenging game of charade, in the course of which people have to mime every piece of gossip or scandal that they wish to communicate to their interlocutors, without letting the subject of their ridicule take notice.

Winter is the season of discontent for our musicians, for the elements oblige them to perform in confined spaces, behind closed doors. People who wish to consume their evening repast in tranquillity, or over a pleasant conversation, can do so in the privacy of their homes. But now that summer has graced us once again, they can give full rein to their muse, and take their art to a wider audience. Summer is the season when windows are open, terraces are packed and when swimming pools in five star hotels are closed for the purpose of celebrating weddings, as of the time of day when it would otherwise become possible to have an invigorating dip and swim a few laps. This is when musicians, driven by the purest sense of egalitarianism, decide that no one in Amman should be deprived of their talent and, agreeing that if the mountain would not come to Mohammed, then Mohammed should go to the mountain, they take their music to the people in their homes, and they continue to regale them till the small hours.

Of course, some misguided souls attempt to fight art, under the pretext that they need to sleep at night, and that a time limit should be observed, beyond which noise should be restricted. No pleasing some people.

Featu

Egypt's

Amnesty International

GROSS HUMAN rights violations continue to be carried out in the name of "fighting terrorism" in Egypt. Thousands of political detainees have been held without charge or trial, some for as long as six years. Systematic torture continues to be used against suspected members of, or sympathisers with, armed Islamist groups, the president of the republic continues to send scores of civilians to military courts where procedures are grossly unfair and which have handed down 70 death sentences over the last three-and-a-half years. Even though, according to the Egyptian authorities, the security forces have taken place in clashes with members of armed groups, some of these killings near the hallmark of extrajudicial executions of political violence between armed Islamist groups and security forces has claimed the lives of at least 1,000 people since early 1992, mostly security officers and members of suspected members of armed groups, but also some civilians caught in the crossfire.

Regional confi

(Continued from page 12)

change in the country, adding that it will also have a direct effect on the public and private sectors as well as promote regional economic cooperation through the financing of regional projects.

Abdul Hamid Miliadi, economic advisor of the Tunisian Businessmen's Association, highlighted the obstacles facing the Tunisian economy, the development of trade exchange and economic development in the region. He attributed the achievement of trade liberalisation in Tunisia to economic restructuring programmes his country has implemented, pointing out that 92 per cent of Tunisia's foreign exports are fully liberalised.

He added that the association agreement Tunisia signed with the EU in 1995, is " vital to the country's economy, saying that 90 per cent of foreign investment comes from Europe. "We cannot maintain economic development unless we create a broad pace of cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean region," Mr. Miliadi said.

However, he said, insufficiency of the infrastructure in some of the Mediterranean countries, differences in legislation, procedures and specifications among those countries and lack of channels of communication between investors as well as the lack of direct European investment in the region are obstacles facing the development of trade exchange and cooperation among states of the Mediterranean basin.

Presenting the Egyptian perspective on the chances and impediments to trade in the region, Shireen Farrag, Investment Manager at the Gulf Arab Investment Company in Cairo, said the differences in form and structure of regional economies do not necessarily present an obstacle to regional growth. They, she said, "provide the basis for enhanced regional growth on the premise that advantages enjoyed in one country could be shared with another and thus increase overall output and employment."

In his paper on the same subject, Dieter Strack, economic advisor to the government of Germany, said the present low level of regional cooperation involves different factors in the organisation of foreign trade and transportation overland, which he described as "the most serious hindrance to an efficient and speedy interchange of goods." He added that to expand regional trade, it is essential to develop uniform regulations on goods and trade, simplify paperwork, modernise the banking system and create a political climate of mutual trust.

Features

Egypt's forgotten victims, indefinite detention and systematic torture

Amnesty International

GROSS HUMAN rights violations continue to be carried out in the name of "fighting terrorism" in Egypt. Thousands of political detainees have been held without charge or trial, some for as long as six years; systematic torture continues to be used against suspected members of, or sympathisers with, armed Islamist groups, the president of the republic continues to send scores of civilians to military courts whose procedures are grossly unfair and which have handed down 70 death sentences over the last three-and-a-half years.

Even though, according to the Egyptian authorities, killings by security forces have taken place in clashes with members of armed groups, some of these killings bear the hallmark of extrajudicial executions. Political violence between armed Islamist groups and security forces has claimed the lives of at least 1,000 people since early 1992, mostly security officers and members of armed groups, but also some civilians caught in the crossfire.

Armed groups have also been responsible for grave human rights abuses. Dozens of civilians, including members of the Coptic Christian community and tourists, have been deliberately killed.

In May 1996, the United Nations Committee against Torture issued a report summarising the processes of a confidential inquiry carried out since November 1991 and concluded that "torture is systematically practised by the security forces in Egypt, in particular by State Security Intelligence, since, in spite of the denials of the government, the allegations of torture submitted by reliable non-governmental organisations consistently indicate that reported cases of torture are seen to be habitual, widespread and deliberate in at least a considerable part of the country."

Amnesty International and other human rights organisations have, on many occasions, made detailed recommendations to the Egyptian government to take measures to stop violations and to improve its human rights record, but these have been ignored.

While Amnesty International recognises the

right of the Egyptian government to bring to justice anyone who has committed a recognisable criminal offence, this must be conducted within the rule of law and with full respect for human rights. It would seem, however, that the rule of law is sacrificed in Egypt.

The government consistently uses indefinite administrative detention, thus breaching its obligations under international treaties, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Egypt in 1982, and even disregarding the few safeguards provided for by laws related to the state of emergency, in force without interruption since 1981.

Political detainees are routinely tortured, but government officials continue to deny the systematic use of torture. They have stated to Amnesty International that there may have been some individual cases of torture but this does not amount to a government policy. However, Amnesty International has since 1981 issued numerous reports and sent direct communications to the government documenting the systematic

use of torture against political detainees. It has also submitted reports to the United Nations, under Article 20 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), ratified by Egypt in 1986.

Over the last 18 months, the Egyptian government, in particular the minister of interior, has lashed out at international and local human rights organisations and accused them of "defending the rights of terrorists," or propagating false and politically motivated information, each time a report on any aspect of human rights in the country is published by these organisations. The government continues to claim that human rights are respected in Egypt and to reject the findings of these organisations as baseless.

This report focuses on administrative detention, torture and the death penalty for which the Egyptian government is responsible, as well as on killings and other human rights abuses by armed opposition groups.

Amnesty International has other serious human rights concerns, including

unfair trials and possible extrajudicial executions, which are not discussed in this report.

Administrative detention

Thousands of sympathisers, members and suspected members of unauthorised Islamist groups have been administratively detained without charge or trial, some for as long as six years, under Article 3 of the Emergency Law. Under this article, the minister of the interior may "arrest and detain suspected persons or those who endanger public order or security." Anyone detained under this article may petition against detention after 30 days have elapsed from the date on which the detention order was issued. These petitions are referred to the (Emergency) Supreme State Security Court, which has to give a reasoned decision within 15 days of presentation of the petition after hearing the detainee's testimony. If the court decides to release the detainee, the minister of interior may challenge this decision within 15 days. If the minister objects to the decision, the matter is referred to another equivalent court

within 15 days of the minister's objection, and this court must issue its decision within 15 days of the referral. If the second court orders release, this decision has to be given effect. If the court orders continued detention, the detainee is entitled to submit a fresh petition after 30 days have elapsed.

In practice, however, when a second court orders release, detainees are, most of the time, secretly transferred to local police stations, Firaq Al Amn (security brigades), the headquarters of the State Security Investigations Department (SSI) in Cairo or SSI branches elsewhere in the country by SSI officers for a few days before they have issued with new detention orders and taken back to prison. Some detainees were charged and tried by state security courts or military courts, and were acquitted. However, instead of being released after judgements were pronounced, they were issued with new detention orders and have been illegally held in various prisons. The government, however, continues to deny that detainees are held illegally. In 1993 it stated to Amnesty

International that "anyone whose petition was accepted and where the court decided to release him was released, except where the released persons returned to his terrorist activities immediately on his release, thus requiring new security measures to be taken in his regard (in relation to his activities following release)."

Amnesty International has, on many occasions, reminded the Egyptian government of its obligations under international treaties and drawn its attention to the requirement that detainees be brought before a judicial authority without delay, as stipulated by Article 9(4) of the ICCPR, which states that "Anyone deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful." This is also required by Principle 11.1 of the United Nations Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (Body of Principles), which states that "A person shall not be

kept in detention without being given an effective opportunity to be heard promptly by a judicial or other authority."

Thousands of political detainees have also been denied the basic right to be visited by lawyers and family members. Detainees held in the High Security Prison in Tora (commonly known as the Scorpion Prison), Istiqlal Tora Prison and Al Fayoum Prison, a new prison which was opened in May 1995, have had no access to lawyers and families since December 1993, September 1994 and May 1995, respectively, because visits to these prisons have been banned by the minister of interior. This ban totally disregards international human rights standards. For example, Principle 15 of the Body of Principles states that "... communication of the detained or imprisoned person with the outside world, and in particular his family or counsel, shall not be denied for more than a matter of days." It also violates Egyptian law. Articles 38, 39 and 40 of the Law Regulating Prisons guarantees the detainee's right to visits by lawyers and families.

Regional conference ends

(Continued from page 12)

change in the country, adding that it will also have a direct effect on the public and private sectors as well as promote regional economic cooperation through the financing of regional projects.

Abdul Hamid Miladi, economic advisor of the Tunisian Businessmen Association, highlighted the obstacles facing the Tunisian economy, the development of trade exchange, and economic development in the region.

He attributed the achievement of trade liberalisation in Tunisia to economic restructuring programmes his country has implemented, pointing out that 92 per cent of Tunisia's foreign exports are "fully" liberated.

He added that the association agreement Tunisia signed with the EU in 1995, is "vital" to the country's economy, saying that 90 per cent of foreign investment comes from Europe.

"We cannot maintain economic development unless we create a broad pace of cooperation between countries of the Mediterranean region," Mr. Miladi said.

However, he said, insufficiency of the infrastructure in some of the Mediterranean countries, differences in legislation, procedures and specifications among those countries and lack of channels of communication between investors as well as the lack of direct European investment in the region are obstacles facing the development of trade exchange and cooperation among states of the Mediterranean basin.

Presenting the Egyptian perspective on the chances and impediments to trade in the region, Shireen Farag, investment manager at the Gulf Arab Investment Company in Cairo, said the differences in form and structure of regional economies do not necessarily present an obstacle to regional growth. They, she said, "provide the basis for enhanced regional growth on the premise that advantages enjoyed in one country could be shared with another and thus increase overall output and employment."

In his paper on the same subject, Dieter Strack, economic advisor to the government of Germany, said the obstacles responsible for the present low level of regional cooperation include differences in the organisation of foreign trade and transportation overland, which he described as "the most serious hindrance to an efficient and speedy interchange of goods." He added that to expand regional trade, it is essential to develop uniform regulations on goods and trade, simplify paperwork, modernise the banking system and create a political climate of mutual trust.

Dr. Strack concluded his paper by warning that significant access to agricultural products from the region to the EU "will simply not happen unless countries attack the clear principles of the protection of the French agricultural system."

The second session of the conference tackled models and mechanisms of economic cooperation and integration with Yves Gazzo, head of the delegation of the European Commission in Amman, saying that there should be wider participation in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

He said that partnership associations between European and Mediterranean countries cannot be attained without the achievement of security which is an important requirement that cannot be ignored.

But in the context of Jordan and Israel, concerns for security have impeded the progress of trade between the two countries.

Duraid Mahasneh, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, said that despite the signing of a transport agreement between the Kingdom and Israel, there is still no direct transportation because of Israeli security reasons and the two states are still following the back to back system. Even though many other agreements have been signed, he said, there is also no direct trade with the West Bank again because of Israeli imposed conditions.

Participants in the meeting emphasised the importance of institution building in the economic development process. They also stressed the need to develop human resources as well as technology transfer in order to achieve the desired economic growth in the Middle East.

In comments to the Jordan Times after the end of the conference, Director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre Hani Horani, said that the conference provided a necessary forum for the exchange of views among European and Arab experts with long experiences in the economic and trade matters. He said that the issues addressed in the conference were of direct relevance to the economies of the area and the problems they are facing, adding that participants were able to propose solutions to overcome them.

Dr. Horani added that the conference also provided detailed discussions of issues which are expected to be tackled in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit which will be held in Cairo later this year. The conference also highlighted the inevitability of the need for economic cooperation both within the countries of the Mediterranean and between the Middle East and Europe, he said.

By Jim Della-Giacoma
Reuter

JAKARTA — Nineteenth-century British Naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace never seemed to be in a hurry.

He took eight years to travel through the Malay Archipelago, often in a small sailboat. On returning home, Wallace took another seven years to publish his best-selling account of the journey.

But Irish explorer and author Tim Severin's adventures while retracing Wallace's journeys in eastern Indonesia are being read even as he sails the seas. Carrying a laptop computer and a satellite transmitter, he provides regular updates on the Internet.

"Tim is the first man on earth to transmit text and images from a kai perahu (a traditional fishing boat) - something Alfred Wallace could not have imagined," Robby Soebianto, an IBM executive in Jakarta who is helping on the project, told Reuters.

After his journey ends, Mr. Severin, a veteran of nine such recreations and author of 10 books, will publish magazine articles as well as a book and make a video for television.

But right now Internet surfers can see words and pictures of Mr. Severin's latest journey on his spice islands voyage homepage on the World Wide Web. (<http://www.IoL.Ic/spice/homepage.htm>)

A group of Irish schoolchildren even get to ask him questions and receive replies from Mr. Severin in his exotic location, far removed from home in County Cork.

Mr. Severin told Reuters via electronic mail that the questions were often repetitive. The children's favourites being: "Have you seen dangerous animals? Where do you go to the bathroom? Does anybody snore and what do you do about it?"

"We've even received classroom poems back, so the (educational) programme seems to be exciting the children's imaginations," Mr. Severin wrote from somewhere in the Halmahera Sea west of Irian Jaya.

Wallace collected insects, animals and

plants on his many journeys from 1854 until 1862 through what are now Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

He used his extensive samples as the basis for his ground-breaking work on natural selection and his correspondence with another British naturalist, Charles Darwin, is credited with helping Darwin develop his landmark theory on evolution.

Wallace was the first to identify the zones where plants and animals of Asia origin ended and those of Australasian origin began. This line, running north-south and found east of the islands of Kalimantan and Bali, is known as the Wallace Line.

Wallace's division persists to a degree among modern scientists, but has never been much supported as the archipelago shows no sharp breaks in the distribution of its 2,300-odd varieties of plants.

But at the time Wallace earned a place in science as the world's first biogeographer. The zones of transition of these plants and animals are now known as Wallacea in his honour.

The task of keeping Mr. Severin's communication links open is handled by a team spread out across the world, working together with sponsors IBM and British Telecom.

Mr. Severin and a crew of five set out on their 1,900-km journey on March 13. They are sailing on a 14.4-metre-long undecked two-masted traditional sailing vessel, the kai perahu, which was built earlier this year using age-old methods on the Kai islands.

Mr. Severin has linked a portable imamsat transmitter to a British Telecom electronic mailbox in Singapore using two IBM thinkpad notebook computers equipped with a video capture programme. This allows him to use the video camera to take and transmit still photographs.

The deck leaks, there are frequent tropical downpours, and the general humidity is extremely high, so every bit of equipment, except when



Author and adventurer Tim Severin (left) ties ropes aboard the 'Alfred Wallace', a traditional Kai islands sailing vessel, as they approach Manado, North Sulawesi at the end of a voyage through Indonesia's spice islands (Reuter photo)

operating, stays sealed in watertight clam cases or heavy double-sealed storage bags," he said. "Even when typing on the thinkpad keyboard,

pools of sweat can form in the hollows on the key tops and have to be scrupulously mopped off."

Mr. Severin says local

islanders still using dugout canoes seem unfazed by the technology. "No one seems the least surprised when the

Satlink programme is explained. Nearly every islander is familiar with the TV reception dishes which are a local status symbol," he said.

Turkish, Jordanian traders flock to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Turkish and Jordanian businessmen said on Tuesday they hoped to secure deals to provide Iraq with goods when the oil-for-food agreement with the United Nations takes effect.

"Our delegation is almost 100 persons...We are ready to meet all the Iraqis' demands regarding food-stuffs, medical supplies and humanitarian needs," Turkish Foreign Trade Undersecretary Nejat Eren told Reuters in Baghdad.

Leading British shoe manufacturer axes 1,400 jobs

LONDON (AFP) — The long-established British shoe company Clark's has announced it will close down three factories and axe 1,400 jobs as part of a massive restructuring plan forced on the firm by fierce competition from low-cost imports.

The shoe manufacturer and retailer said that it was shutting down two factories in south-west England, one which began producing shoes in 1946. In addition, a plant in the north of England is also due for closure.

Almost a thousand employees at these sites will lose their jobs, with the bulk of the remaining redundancies at Clark's headquarters in Somerset, south-west England.

Unions reacted with dismay to the news. "A lot of these people have worked for Clark's for a long time, 40 years is not unusual," said a union spokesman.

The move also generated political controversy, as the opposition Labour Party called on Clark's to reconsider their "savage" job cuts.

But the shoe company defended the decision, saying it was unavoidable from a commercial point of view.

"Although most regrettable, the management team at Clark's has taken this action to reverse the decline in the firm's performance over a number of years," said Clark's chief executive, Tim Parker.

Clark's and other British shoe manufacturers, hit by cheap imports over the last 20 years, have been in long-term decline.

"By reducing the company's manufacturing capacity to bring it in line with demand, the foundations will also be established for profitable growth in the future," Mr. Parker added.

The company also stressed that it still employed more than 13,000 people in Britain with seven major factories and more than 600 shops.

ish Foreign Trade Undersecretary Nejat Eren told Reuters in Baghdad.

Iraq's oil deal with the U.N., signed in May, allows oil sales worth \$2 billion in six months for relief purposes. The U.N. has to issue oil export procedures and agree to Baghdad's food distribution plan before the pact goes into effect.

Iraq will be left with about \$1.135 billion after paying reparations for the victims of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and other U.N. costs.

Mr. Eren said Turkey had eyes set for at least one-third of the money. He said Ankara's trade with Iraq shrank to about \$122 million under U.N. trade sanctions from \$2.5 billion in

1988.

Mr. Eren said his country was poised to meet Iraq's needs of flour, sugar, cooking oil and even rice, for which Baghdad has allocated about \$805 million in the food distribution plan it sent to the U.N. secretary-general for approval last month.

"The response from the Iraqi side is very positive, very frank. There is no political problem between Turkey and Iraq," said Mr. Eren, who has had meetings with Iraqi minister of trade and industry.

Jordanians visiting Iraq were also upbeat about prospects of future trade.

Khalidoun Abu Hassan, chairman of Amman Chamber of Industry, said: "We have learned from our Iraqi brethren that they would welcome Jordanian industrialists and businessmen to supply Iraq with its needs."

Mr. Abu Hassan side-stepped questions on political ties, strained since Jordan started talking to Iraqi opposition groups.

"They (political ties) are like a summer cloud soon to disappear," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the Turks were in a better position in matters such as agricultural or industrial exports but said he expected the Iraqis to give his country preferential treatment.

Iraq meets all Jordan's needs of oil under special clearance from U.N. Sanctions Committee, Iraq, despite its current meagre trade with the outside

world, still remains one of Jordan's major trading partners.

Under a bilateral accord Jordan ships to Iraq goods worth \$220 million a year and Mr. Abu Hassan said Jordanian businessmen and industrialists wanted to boost that figure when the limited oil sales deal takes effect.

"There is confirmation from the Iraqi side that Agaba port will be given priority to handle shipments from the Mediterranean countries, Europe and the Americas," he said.

He also said Iraqis pledged to his delegation to opt for Jordanian products and traders if their offers of "prices and quality are equivalent to those submitted by other countries."

| JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|---------|
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 09/07/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PART 12 MONTHS HIGH | PART 12 MONTHS LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF SHARES | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE | PERCENT |
| 250,000 | 205,000 | ARAB BANK | 11.7 | 1.64 | 5 | 140 | 29880 | 213.80 | 213.80 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,350 | 910 | MID. EAST INV. BK. | 59.1 | 0.00 | 2 | 1000 | 900 | 213.80 | 213.80 | - | 0.0 |
| 8,180 | 4,250 | THE HOUSING BK. | 11.4 | 3.24 | 3 | 3568 | 16198 | 4.26 | 4.26 | - | 0.0 |
| 3,040 | 2,600 | JOR. INVEST. BANK | 19.6 | 0.00 | 8 | 7781 | 21110 | 2.71 | 2.71 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,300 | 900 | JOR. OILFIELD BANK | 17.1 | 0.00 | 23 | 69700 | 63636 | 2.71 | 2.71 | - | 0.0 |
| 4,180 | 3,300 | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK | 17.1 | 0.00 | 3 | 3750 | 12493 | 3.40 | 3.40 | - | 0.0 |
| 4,250 | 3,800 | JOR. INV. FID. BANK | 18.1 | 0.00 | 1 | 350 | 1273 | 3.34 | 3.34 | - | 0.0 |
| 3,610 | 3,360 | BEIT AL-HAL (JORDIA) | 1.5 | 0.00 | 1 | 1500 | 1178 | 2.36 | 2.36 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,130 | 320 | AMMAN BANK INV. | 9 | 0.00 | 24 | 13300 | 9881 | 3.12 | 3.12 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,740 | 1,000 | PHILADIA INV. BK. | 9 | 0.00 | 4 | 3280 | 3645 | 1.04 | 1.06 | - | 0.2 |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | | INDEX: 168.31 | CHG: -0.05 | 77 | 109374 | 158046 | | | | |
| 1,900 | 1,450 | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 10.2 | 8.16 | 10 | 4200 | 6176 | 1.46 | 1.47 | - | 0.1 |
| 2,300 | 1,080 | REAL ESTATE INV. | 20.7 | 0.00 | 3 | 450 | 492 | 1.08 | 1.10 | - | 0.2 |
| 1,160 | 900 | REAL ESTATE INV. | 20.7 | 0.00 | 3 | 450 | 492 | 1.08 | 1.10 | - | 0.2 |
| 3,060 | 3,090 | ARAB INTEL. INV. EDUC. | 12.5 | 6.31 | 3 | 4272 | 13642 | 3.20 | 3.17 | - | 0.3 |
| 1,430 | 960 | SARFA EDUCATION | 9 | 0.00 | 5 | 8000 | 7660 | 0.98 | 0.97 | - | 0.1 |
| 2,460 | 1,730 | UNIFIED CO. | 9.2 | 0.00 | 36 | 15250 | 26310 | 1.76 | 1.75 | - | 0.1 |
| 1,200 | 820 | UNION LAND DEV. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 3700 | 3330 | 0.90 | 0.90 | - | 0.0 |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | | INDEX: 110.90 | CHG: -0.09 | 59 | 36222 | 57935 | | | | |
| 33,080 | 18,950 | JOR. TOBACCO & CIG. | 18.6 | 3.26 | 2 | 42 | 966 | 22.58 | 23.00 | - | 0.2 |
| 3,810 | 3,060 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 17.5 | 3.27 | 14 | 6674 | 20436 | 3.07 | 3.06 | - | 0.1 |
| 3,560 | 2,900 | JOR. PROSPERITY MINING | 19.6 | 0.00 | 1 | 400 | 1100 | 2.80 | 2.75 | - | 0.5 |
| 4,250 | 4,750 | ARAB POTASH CO. | 18.7 | 0.00 | 1 | 450 | 1360 | 3.00 | 2.98 | - | 0.7 |
| 10,560 | 9,730 | JOR. PETROL. REFINERY | 8.9 | 5.12 | 11 | 715 | 6512 | 8.74 | 8.77 | - | 0.3 |
| 8,150 | 6,550 | JOR. WORSTED MILLS | 8.2 | 3.89 | 3 | 980 | 6107 | 6.55 | 6.42 | - | 1.3 |
| 5,300 | 3,200 | ARAB PAPER MANF. | 17.4 | 6.23 | 23 | 3450 | 10797 | 3.20 | 3.16 | - | 0.6 |
| 6,550 | 5,650 | JOR. CERAMIC TID. | 7.1 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 87 | 5.80 | 5.70 | - | 1.0 |
| 4,090 | 3,200 | JOR. PAPER CARBON | 16.2 | 3.17 | 1 | 200 | 630 | 3.20 | 3.15 | - | 0.9 |
| 2,530 | 1,400 | KAPTA INDUSTRIES | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 50 | 72 | 1.40 | 1.44 | - | 0.4 |
| 8,000 | 4,400 | DAR AL-JAWAD INV. TRD. | 12.0 | 4.55 | 7 | 1200 | 5261 | 4.42 | 4.40 | - | 0.1 |
| 3,140 | 2,140 | ARAB ALUM. CO. | 8.9 | 12.78 | 2 | 230 | 783 | 3.14 | 3.13 | - | 0.1 |
| 740 | 450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 9 | 0.00 | 26 | 26250 | 17620 | 0.47 | 0.46 | - | 0.1 |
| 1,500 | 1,060 | ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD. | 7.4 | 9.50 | 3 | 250 | 203 | 1.07 | 1.09 | - | 0.2 |
| 1,210 | 580 | NATIONAL CHDS. | 9.5 | 9.98 | 28 | 11480 | 9068 | 0.69 | 0.67 | - | 0.1 |
| 2,390 | 1,060 | INTERMED. PETRO. CORP. | 9.5 | 0.00 | 25 | 7750 | 8447 | 1.08 | 1.07 | - | 0.5 |
| 2,260 | 1,080 | ARAB PAPER CORP. | 7.4 | 9.50 | 3 | 250 | 203 | 1.07 | 1.09 | - | 0.2 |
| 3,450 | 1,840 | UNIV. MODER. INDUS. | 17.5 | 11.11 | 38 | 22500 | 40588 | 1.84 | 1.80 | - | 0.6 |
| 2,170 | 1,180 | JOR. ENDS. REFINING | 12.0 | 0.00 | 69 | 27615 | 12291 | 1.10 | 1.09 | - | 0.1 |
| 1,920 | 970 | JOR. NEW CABLE CO. | 26.6 | 0.00 | 21 | 10050 | 9873 | 0.97 | 0.90 | - | 0.1 |
| 2,460 | 1,750 | EL-SAY READING WEAR | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 2100 | 3738 | 1.79 | 1.78 | - | 0.1 |
| 1,490 | 1,100 | INTL. TOBACCO | 26.4 | 0.00 | 13 | 7650 | 8420 | 1.10 | 1.12 | - | 0.2 |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | | INDEX: 104.05 | CHG: -0.91 | 329 | 148126 | 190884 | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | INDEX: 135.98 | CHG: -0.40 | 465 | 297222 | 404865 | | | | |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 09/07/1996 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 820 | 640 | JOR. TRADE FAC. | 17.1 | 0.00 | 5 | 5500 | 3490 | 0.64 | 0.64 | - | 0.0 |
| 930 | 770 | MATL. COMMER. CENTERS | 8 | 0.00 | 1 | 100 | 13 | 0.77 | 0.73 | - | 0.4 |
| 1,000 | 700 | ORION INV. CO. | 58.9 | 0.00 | 6 | 10000 | 2211 | 0.72 | 0.72 | - | 0.0 |
| 2,390 | 1,550 | ARAB FID. INVEST. | 9 | 0.00 | 14 | 4800 | 2584 | 0.58 | 0.53 | - | 0.2 |
| 1,080 | 510 | ARAB FOOD & MFG. | 2 | 0.00 | 4 | 11000 | 5715 | 0.52 | 0.52 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,870 | 1,380 | MATL. CHLORINE | 8 | 0.00 | 7 | 3250 | 4616 | 1.39 | 1.36 | - | 0.1 |
| 790 | 520 | ARAB INTEL. INV. TRD. | 12.0 | 0.00 | 5 | 4050 | 24476 | 0.64 | 0.63 | - | 0.1 |
| 1,500 | 830 | MATL. ALUM. IND. (JORDIA) | 8.9 | 0.00 | 19 | 31166 | 19749 | 0.64 | 0.63 | - | 0.1 |
| 1,080 | 770 | JORDAN STEEL | 8 | 0.00 | 5 | 2250 | 1748 | 0.79 | 0.77 | - | 0.2 |
| 870 | 490 | ARAB ELECT. INDUS. | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 2250 | 1103 | 0.49 | 0.49 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,000 | 620 | MIDWEST PHARM. 75% | 2 | 0.00 | 4 | 1350 | 870 | 0.63 | 0.62 | - | 0.1 |
| 1,710 | 1,080 | UNION TOBACCO 75% | 2 | 0.00 | 5 | 5338 | 7627 | 1.17 | 1.15 | - | 0.2 |
| 960 | 640 | RAZI PHARM. 55% | 8 | 0.00 | 6 | 1785 | 513 | 0.65 | 0.65 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,520 | 790 | ZINDS. CERAMIC | 8 | 0.00 | 7 | 2163 | 779 | 0.79 | 0.77 | - | 0.2 |
| 970 | 410 | 1. TEXTILE MANUF. | 8 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 640 | 0.44 | 0.44 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,590 | 850 | MATL. POTASH 75% | 8 | 0.00 | 1 | 10000 | 4000 | 0.55 | 0.55 | - | 0.0 |
| 1,500 | 530 | MID. EAST COM. ANCTYON | 6.3 | 0.00 | 45 | 799900 | 427758 | 0.55 | 0.55 | - | 0.0 |
| 580 | 550 | MID. EAST COM. ANCTYON | 6.3 | 0.00 | 45 | 762200 | 407361 | 0.55 | 0.54 | - | 0.1 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | 229 | 1706404 | 916443 | | | | | | |

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Middle East Investment Bank returns to profitability

** THE MIDDLE EAST Investment Bank jumped into profit last year as it recorded a JD136,700 net profit compared to a JD597,800 loss registered in 1994. The accumulated losses of the bank reached JD2.9 million at the end of 1994 but the losses were narrowed to JD2.7 million at the end of 1995 on the general assembly approval to use the profit to cover part of the losses incurred in previous years.

According to the bank's 1995 annual report total assets increased from JD44.5 million in 1994 to JD59.9 million at the end of last year. Total assets were up by JD7.3 million as they reached JD43.1 million. The net equity of the shareholders stood at JD9.1 million (JD1.4 million in 1994) due to the increase in the bank's capital from JD4 million to JD10 million.

The bank extended JD35 million in credit facilities (JD25.9 million in 1994) and earned a total of JD5.05 million (JD3.2 million in 1994). Interest and commission accounted for 90.8 per cent of the 1995 total earnings (AI Ra'i + AI Dostour + AI Aswaq).

Middle East Complex for Engineering, Electronics and Heavy Industries registers JD1.93 million net profit

** THE MIDDLE EAST Complex for Engineering, Electronics and Heavy Industries posted a JD1.93 million net profit last year which was the first year of the company's operations. Net sales of home appliances and from services amounted to JD24.59 million.

The company, which has total assets of more than JD41 million, is still considering setting up a car assembly plant in Jordan after conducting negotiations with the Korean Sang Yang Company which has appointed the Jordanian firm as its agent and distributor of its cars.

Vice-Chairman Osama Darwish Al Khalili told the general assembly that the company was able to acquire a high share of the local market for its home appliances, especially televisions. He estimated the market share at 85 per cent and noted that 20 per cent of total sales in 1995 were exported to Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Libya and Romania (AI Aswaq + AI Dostour).

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates | | | | | Prices as at..... 9/07/96 19:36 | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
| US Dollar | 1.5245 | 0.6452 | 1.2639 | 110.32 | 1.3705 | 1.5355 | 1.7110 | 1.1660 | |
| DE Mark | 0.6450 | 1.0000 | 0.7363 | 6.5593 | 0.9376 | 1.0775 | 1.1225 | 0.5445 | |
| GB Sterling | 1.5500 | 1.5500 | 1.0000 | 1.9580 | 72.84 | 2.1243 | 2.3861 | 2.6520 | 7.9980 |
| CHF Franc | 0.7991 | 1.2845 | 0.5510 | 1.0000 | 1.4833 | 1.6333 | 1.7513 | 1.9133 | 4.6673 |
| JP Yen | 0.0091 | 1.3813 | 0.5842 | 1.1443 | 1.0000 | 1.2401 | 1.3911 | 155.0200 | 4.6752 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7273 | 1.1156 | 0.4485 | 0.9373 | 1.2401 | 1.0000 | 1.1213 | 1.2513 | 0.7173 |
| IT Lira | 0.0007 | 0.9925 | 0.4198 | 0.0822 | 1.3911 | 0.8911 | 1.114 | 3.3595 | |
| NL Guilder | 0.3945 | 0.9945 | 0.3795 | 11.17 | 84.41 | 4.7995 | 88.63 | | 3.9140 |
| FR Franc | 0.1938 | 0.2954 | 0.1249 | 24.4720 | 21.36 | 2.2652 | 33.15 | 33.1500 | |

| Energy | | | Mid-East Currencies | | | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Oil | Last | Previous | Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
| Brent | 19.95 | 20.00 | SA Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.4066 | 0.1703 | 0.3369 | 29.4291 |
| W. Texas | 21.28 | 21.30 | AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.4151 | 0.1756 | 0.3402 | 30.0506 |
| Bony | 19.95 | 20.00 | KW Dinar | 3.3333 | 5.0038 | 2.1904 | 4.1213 | 367.918 |
| Dubai | 17.75 | 18.05 | BF Dinar | 0.2770 | 0.4457 | 1.7111 | 3.5121 | 292.74 |
| UL Gas | 20.00 | 20.00 | CY Pound | 2.1235 | 3.2383 | 1.3496 | 2.6829 | 234.265 |

| Metal Prices | | | Currency Deposit Rates (Bid) | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------|
| Metal | Bid | Offer | Period | -1 - | -3 - | -6 - | -9 - | -1 - |
| Gold (oz) | 382.9 | 383.4 | Cncy Month <td>Months<td>Months<td>Months<td>Months<td>Year</td></td></td></td></td> | Months <td>Months<td>Months<td>Months<td>Year</td></td></td></td> | Months <td>Months<td>Months<td>Year</td></td></td> | Months <td>Months<td>Year</td></td> | Months <td>Year</td> | Year |
| Silver (oz) | 5.12 | 5.14 | USD | 5.37 | 5.59 | 5.78 | 5.97 | 6.15 |
| Platinum (oz) | 390 | 391 | GBP | 5.68 | 5.68 | 5.68 | 5.59 | 5.90 |
| AL (3 Months) | 1500 | 1506 | JPY | 0.31 | 0.56 | 0.56 | 0.68 | 0.81 |
| CU (3 Months) | 1918 | 1923 | DEM | 3.16 | 3.24 | 3.34 | 3.45 | 3.58 |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1033 | 1033 | FRF | 3.73 | 3.83 | 3.92 | 4.05 | 4.15 |
| Lead (3 Months) | 794 | 799 | CHF | 2.49 | 2.57 | 2.68 | 2.74 | 2.82 |
| Ni (3 Months) | 2570 | 2575 | ITL | 9.84 | 8.63 | 8.38 | 8.30 | 8.23 |

| Main Equity Indices | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| Bourse | Index | Value | Low | High | Pt Chg | % Chng | Chng |
| NewYork | DOW JONES | 5580.38 | 5550.83 | 5587.4 | 5550.83 | 0.53 | 29.55 |
| NewYork | S&P 500 | 655.67 | 652.54 | 658.68 | 652.54 | 0.48 | 3.13 |
| London | FT-SE 100 | 3752.3 | 3744.2 | 3757.6 | 3741.5 | 2.09 | 10.8 |
| Tokyo | NIKKEI 225 | 21919.82 | 21840.8 | 21977 | 21924.9 | -0.92 | -5.12 |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 2076.57 | 2072.07 | 2081.29 | 2079.06 | -1.12 | -2.49 |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 2562.16 | 2554.12 | 2564.17 | 2551.04 | -0.44 | -11.14 |

| Energy | | | * JOD Cross Rates | | |
|--------------|--------|----------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Commodity | Last | Delivery | Currency | Buy | Sell |
| Coffee (c/b) | 128.33 | Spot | US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 |
| Sugar (c/b) | 147.2 | Spot | GB Sterling | 1.099 | 1.1045 |
| Cocoa (c/b) | 204.8 | Spot | DE Mark | 0.4639 | 0.4662 |
| Soyab (c/b) | 230 | Spot | CH Franc | 0.5606 | 0.5634 |
| Wheat (c/b) | 23.76 | Spot | FR Franc | 0.137 | 0.1377 |
| Soya (c/b) | 23.76 | Spot | JP Yen | 0.6099 | 0.6201 |
| Tea (c/b) | 110 | Spot | NL Guilder | 0.4133 | 0.4154 |
| Barley (c/b) | 3.69 | Spot | IT Lira | 0.8462 | 0.8463 |
| Rice (c/b) | 40 | Spot | | | |

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The third week of the Kingdom's Premier League competition brings an early clash between two of the competition's top teams when Al Hussein meet Al Ramtha on Friday.

The two teams currently sit in the standings with four points after a win and a draw each. Al Ramtha beat Shabab Al Hussein 2-0 and drew with Al Qadisiyah 0-0 while Al Hussein beat Al Qozazi 5-1 and drew with Kufrun 0-0.

Titleholders, Al Wihdat, who meet Al Qadisiyah in another match Friday also have four points after

STANDING

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Al Hussein | 4 |
| Al Ramtha | 4 |
| Al Qadisiyah | 2 |
| Al Wihdat | 2 |
| Al Qozazi | 2 |
| Al Kufrun | 2 |
| Shabab Al Hussein | 2 |
| Kufrun | 2 |

Tour de France

Zabel takes 2nd stage win; Labert out

PARIS (AFP) — Erik Zabel of Germany won his second stage of this year's Tour de France — the 16th stage from Limoges to Gap — on Tuesday to take the leading position in the green jersey.

Zabel's Telekom team-mate, Jani Riis of Denmark, retained the overall lead in the 1992 Tour de France. Zabel, 26, won the 16th stage of the race and then the mass start in Gap with former world champion Frederic Mottier finishing second in 50 seconds.

Zabel, who won the 1992 Tour de France, is the 32-year-old son of two, was ecstatic at the success of the team, who are also leading the overall standings.

His bid set a great example leading the team into the final straight to try and win the long-time lone jersey, compatriot Rolf Zamen, who was Tour de France leader for four years in 1991 until he broke his collarbone, had escaped with 27km to the finish — Saturday's stage.

Zamen, who had a long and Swiss rider Dufaux, who had been silent the stage on Sunday, in his wake.

Frenchman Laurent Jalabert, world cycling number one, abandoned — today followed by Johan

Spain's Egoiz (left) and Zamen (right) were also leading the overall standings.

The last year of Tour when peloton Monty

"I think with the last year of Tour when peloton Monty

UNFURNISHED HOUSE IN A QUITE AREA IN a two-floor building (one master) + 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious living rooms, glassed in veranda, swimming pool, garden around the house, two telephone lines. Kitchen completely renovated. Tel.: 819379-6213.

No regrets for Vialli as Juventus eye Shearer

MILAN (AFP) — Juventus coach Marcello Lippi insisted Tuesday that his team were not weakened by the loss of star striker Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli.

But he admitted he would love to have Blackburn's Alan Shearer playing for the European champions next season, describing the England centre forward as the star of Euro '96.

Juventus did not renew skipper Vialli's contract, prompting Chelsea to swoop for the Italian, and then accepted a surprise seven-million pound offer from Middlesbrough.

"Luca is no longer with us, and we all know why," Lippi said.

"With Ravanelli, the club had a substantial offer and I accepted it because with Alen Boksic, Alessandro Del Piero, Christian Vieri, Nicola Amoroso and Michele Padovano I feel that I'm covered."

The three new recruits for next season are playmaker Boksic from Lazio and Italian under-21 stars Vieri and Amoroso.

Del Piero will be looking to come back from an uninspiring second half of the 1996 season, while perpetual substitute Padovano gets his chance to break into the first team.

"We'll all miss Luca," Lippi said. "I saw him a couple of weeks ago and we parted on good terms because we both know that these things happen in football."

"Luca is a great leader, an example to the rest of the team, someone who was always willing to work for others. But in this squad, there are players who can take his place, people who have spent the last two years in Vialli's shadow."

Lippi listed Frenchman Didier Deschamps, Ciro Ferrara, Antonio Conte and Angelo Peruzzi as possible team leaders.

However, another name which came to Lippi's mind when thinking of Juventus' future was Shearer, top scorer at Euro '96.

"I really like him," he told the Corriere Dello Sport. "He was the best surprise of the European Championships. I've talked about him with my friend Brian Kidd, one of the coaches at Manchester United, and Bryan told me he would be perfect for Italy."

"And I think he's right. We're talking about a centre forward who is at home in the penalty area, someone who can turn round and then 'boom'."

"At the same time, he understands the other side of attacking, defending space and the ball, and he looks like someone who's willing to fight."

As for his own future, Lippi was asked about taking over one day as national coach, the job currently held by embattled Arrigo Sacchi.

"Perhaps in three or four years," he said. "If I can repeat what I've achieved over the last two years, I could be in the running."

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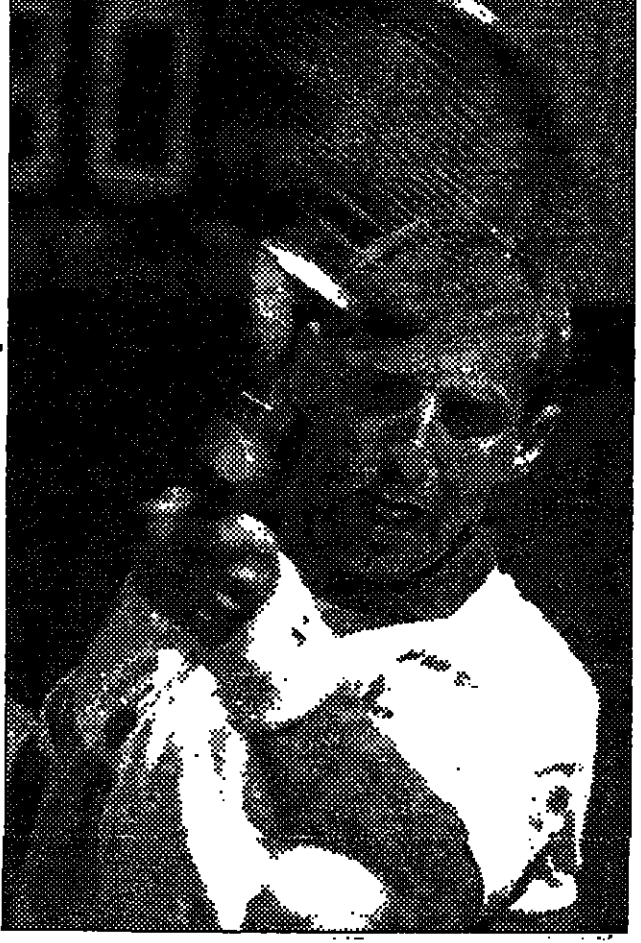
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Leading ATP rankings

MONACO (R) — Leading rankings issued by the ATP last Monday:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Pete Sampras (U.S.) | 4,350 pts |
| 2. Thomas Muster (Austria) | 3,694 |
| 3. Andre Agassi (U.S.) | 3,377 |
| 4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) | 3,194 |
| 5. Boris Becker (Germany) | 3,162 |
| 6. Michael Chang (U.S.) | 3,162 |
| 7. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) | 2,753 |
| 8. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) | 2,585 |
| 9. Jim Courier (U.S.) | 2,373 |
| 10. Thomas Enqvist (Netherlands) | 2,210 |
| 11. Marcelo Rios (Chile) | 2,184 |
| 12. Mahesh Bhupathi (U.S.) | 2,016 |
| 13. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) | 1,904 |
| 14. Michael Stich (Germany) | 1,988 |
| 15. Todd Martin (U.S.) | 1,660 |
| 16. Marc Rosset (Switzerland) | 1,582 |
| 17. Armand Briere (France) | 1,568 |
| 18. Alberto Costa (Spain) | 1,507 |
| 19. Cedric Pioline (France) | 1,500 |
| 20. Jan Siemerink (Netherlands) | 1,405 |



Austria's Thomas Muster

WTA women's rankings

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Latest WTA tennis rankings issued here Monday:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Steffi Graf (Germany) | 350 pts |
| 2. Monica Seles (U.S.) | 215 |
| 3. Conchita Martinez (Spain) | 215 |
| 4. Arantxa Sanchez (Spain) | 199 |
| 5. Iva Majoli (Croatia) | 171 |
| 6. Anke Huber (Germany) | 156 |
| 7. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) | 156 |
| 8. Chanda Rubin (U.S.) | 156 |
| 9. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.) | 126 |
| 10. Kimiko Date (Japan) | 119 |
| 11. Lindsay Davenport (U.S.) | 113 |
| 12. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria) | 111 |
| 13. Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) | 109 |
| 14. Mary Pierce (France) | 108 |
| 15. Gabriela Sabatini (Arg.) | 101 |
| 16. Amanda Coetzer (S. Africa) | 88 |
| 17. Barbara Paulus (Austria) | 86 |
| 18. Martina Hingis (Switzerland) | 83 |
| 19. Inga Spirlea (Romania) | 79 |
| 20. Meredith McGrath (U.S.) | 78 |
| 21. Julie Halard (France) | 71 |



Germany's Steffi Graf

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSH

SPOT THE WINNING LINE

Both vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH

♠ J 7
♥ K 6
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ A Q J 10 7

EAST

♠ K 8
♥ Q J 10 9 2
♦ K Q J 9 8
♣ A 8 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 6 5 3 2
♥ 7 5 3
♦ A
♣ A 5

The bidding:

NORTH EAST
Pass Pass 4♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Take a vote among cognoscenti for the best card player ever, and Blue Team star Giorgio Belladonna would be right there in the top five. However, this hand, accredited to him by many of his admirers although he never claimed it himself, is actually a problem by the gifted composer, the late Paul Losens of Tel Aviv, Israel.

The opening bid of four spades is a normal action opposite a passed hand and there are many possible lines, most of which offer several chances. For example, after winning the ace of diamonds, declarer can lead a heart toward the king. If that loses and a trump is returned, declarer can try the finesse.

As the cards lie, that, too, fails, but declarer can win the trump return in hand and either attempt the club finesse or cross to the ace of clubs and lead a heart toward the jack. Neither is destined to succeed, so a one-trick set is declarer's fate.

However, there is a sure-trick line that succeeds even with everything wrong. At trick two, declarer must cross to the ace of clubs and lead a low heart away from the king!

Let's suppose that East plays low and the jack of hearts loses to West's queen. West cannot return a trump without sacrificing a trick, and with any other return declarer will be able to ruff a heart in dummy and lose only two heart tricks and a trump. If the offenders are able to remove dummy's spades, declarer will lose three heart tricks but no trump.

What if East wins the heart? Whether it be with the queen or the ace, declarer will then lose only two heart tricks and a trump. Beautiful!

COUNTDOWN TO ATLANTA



Trinidad and Tobago's Ato Boldon (centre) on his way to win the men's 100 metres event at the Stockholm Grand Prix. Canada's Donovan Bailey (right) and Bruny Surin is at left. Boldon won in 10.07 seconds (Reuters photo)

Johnson's preparations finish on high note

STOCKHOLM (R) — Michael Johnson flew home to the United States Tuesday after completing a pre-Olympic European racing programme he hopes will bring him unprecedented glory in Atlanta.

The next time the 28-year-old Texan appears on a track will be in the evening on Friday, July 26 when he lines up at the start of his first round heat in the Olympic 400 metres in Atlanta.

If all goes according to plan he will win the 400 metres final the following Monday, the 200 title three days later and collect his third gold medal by anchoring the American 4x400 relay team to victory on the night of Saturday August 3.

But something that did not go according to plan in Europe could well provide the final impetus Johnson needed for ensuring Olympic success.

He was clearly stung by his first defeat over 200 metres for two years when he lost to Frankie Fredericks of Namibia at the Bislett Games in Oslo last Friday — and bounced back in blistering form to win the same event in Stockholm Monday, clocking 19.77 seconds, the sixth fastest time ever run.

Before winning in Stockholm, Johnson was philosophical about the defeat, his first in the half-lap sprint for 21 races.

Even though he clocked a fast time of 19.85 seconds Johnson finished second to Fredericks who won in 19.82 seconds.

"I just wasn't focused and I got a bad start," he said, "but everyone else should know that if I wasn't focused and ran 19.85...I mean, come on...You know what I am saying here. I looked at the rest of the race with my coach and I had a very good turn and a very good race."

Asked whether Fredericks was now his equal over the distance, he said: "You just have to look at my times over the year at the 200 and his times and I think you can work out the answer to that."

"It was just a question of one mistake, a bad start, and you can't make that kind of mistake against an athlete like Fredericks."

As if to re-enforce the message to Fredericks, Ato Boldon of Trinidad, Jon Drummond and Jeff Williams of the United States and anyone else who has their eyes on the Olympic 200-400 metre double in Atlanta, a feat no man has ever achieved although American Valerie Briscoe-Hooks won both women's events in Los Angeles 12 years ago.

Monday, leading from gun to line and appearing to accelerate to the line to win in a blistering 19.77.

Fredericks was not running, but Boldon was and looked well beaten at the finish despite clocking 19.94 seconds.

"He certainly looked in shape, but no one is just going to hand the gold medal to Michael Johnson at Atlanta," said Boldon afterwards.

Johnson also ran a very fast 400 in Lausanne last week when he clocked 43.66 seconds, a time only he has bettered this year, and overall was satisfied with his European programme.

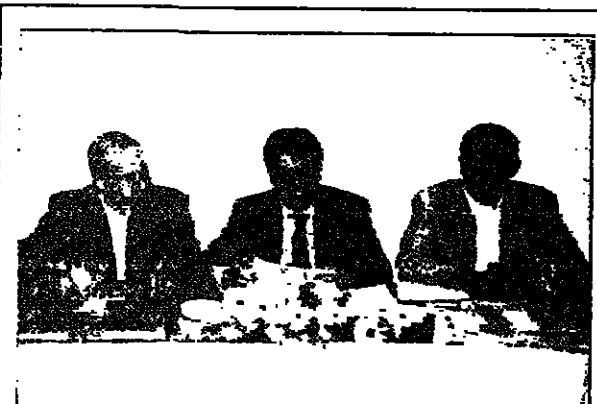
"I'm pleased I have done the 400 in Lausanne and the 200s here, because I just needed to bluff, after the Olympic trials what kind of shape I was in, and its fine."

"I am going home to rest and just keep my fitness up before the Games, and when I relax, I relax...I don't do anything."

Johnson is attempting what would be an historic Olympic 200-400 metre double in Atlanta, a feat no man has ever achieved although American Valerie Briscoe-Hooks won both women's events in Los Angeles 12 years ago.

Barkley accused of bar fight injury

CLEVELAND (AFP) — U.S. Olympic "Dream Team" forward Charles Barkley and an irate fan traded punches Sunday and words on Monday, with the injured fan saying he might file a civil suit for damages.



Police reports said Job Tyler of New York accused Barkley of assault after receiving a punch in the nose. Barkley filed a report accusing Tyler of using "bodily force" against him.

Tyler said Monday he would not file charges against Barkley, saying he did not want the National Basketball Association star booted from the Olympics. But Tyler, 23, did say he might file a civil suit later for money.

Barkley was accompanied by U.S. teammate Reggie Miller and security guards at a basement bar in the flats neighborhood here.

"You get sick of people trying to sue you for money. It has only happened to me 12 times in the past five years."

Barkley was found innocent of any wrongdoing in two noted incidents over the past three years.

Miller said he gained a new understanding of what life is like for Barkley.

"I was glad I was there to witness what he goes through," Miller said. "It's unfortunate."

Today, Koech relies on his government salary and lives in the barracks, unlike his well-off junior officers, who stay in their own homes and drive luxurious powerful cars.

He believes his day will come and showed his form in the armed forces championships on May 18 by finishing second to Tergat in the 10,000 metres after leading for 20 laps.

Qweider Trading Establishment introduces the Italian Aurora Pens

Qweider Trading Establishment (QTE) Tuesday introduced the Italian-made "Aurora" pens in Jordan. At a press conference held at Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, General Manager Ali Qweider and his deputy Ziad Qweider welcomed the audience and voiced their happiness in introducing the new Aurora products in record time. Director of the export department at Aurora Company, Dr. Cesar Verona, voiced happiness for designating QTE as the company's agents, and briefed the audience on the company's achievements ever since it was established in 1919.

PHILADELPHIA

Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau in

BRAVEHEART

winner of 6 Academy Awards

Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

PLAZA

Layla Elwi...in

Ya Dunya Ya Gharami (Arabic)

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Toy Story

5:00 p.m

CONCORD

Mel Gibson & Sophie Marceau in

BRAVEHEART

winner of 6 Academy Awards

Shows: 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30

CONCORD "2"

Interview with the Vampire

Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

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Premier League's 3rd week kicks off today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The third week of the Kingdom's Premier League competition brings an early clash among two of the competition's top teams when Al Ramtha meet Al Hussein in Irbid Friday.

The two teams currently top the standings with four points after a win and draw each. Al Ramtha beat Shabab Al Hussein 2-0 and drew with Al Qadissieh 0-0 while Al Hussein beat Al Qoqazi 5-1 and drew with Kufroum 0-0.

Titleholders, Al Wihdat who meet Al Qadissieh in another match Friday also have four points after

beating Al Jazireh 2-1 and drawing with Shabab Al Hussein 0-0.

Former champions Al Faisali also have the same points after beating Al Ahli 1-0 and drawing with Al Jazireh 0-0. They face Shabab Al Hussein Wednesday.

In one of two matches Thursday, Al Ahli meet Al Jazireh in Amman. Both teams suffered defeats in

earlier matches. Al Ahli lost to Al Faisali and beat Kufroum 4-0 while Al Jazireh lost to Al Wihdat and drew with Al Faisali.

Meanwhile, Kufroum meet Al Qoqazi in the other match in Irbid. Kufroum held Al Hussein to a goalless draw and were beaten by Al Ahli while Qoqazi lost both earlier matches to Al Hussein and Al Qadissieh.

Schedule of 3rd week

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Al Faisali - Shabab Al Hussein | Wed 10/7, Amman |
| Al Ahli - Al Jazireh | Thurs 11/7, Amman |
| Kufroum - Qoqazi | Thurs 11/7, Irbid |
| Wihdat - Qadissieh | Fri 12/7, Amman |
| Ramtha - Hussein | Fri 12/7, Irbid |

STANDINGS BEFORE 3RD ROUND

| Team | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Hussein | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Ramtha | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | 4 |
| Qadissieh | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Wihdat | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Faisali | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| Ahli | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Jazireh | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Shabab Al Hussein | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 |
| Kufroum | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 1 |
| Qoqazi | 2 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 7 | - |

Tour de France Zabel takes 2nd stage win; Jalabert out

GAP, France (AFP) — Erik Zabel of Germany won his second stage of this year's Tour de France — the 208.5km 10th stage from Turin to Gap — on Tuesday, to take the leading points winner's green jersey.

Zabel's Telekom team-mate Bjarne Riis of Denmark retained the overall leader's yellow jersey.

The 26-year-old German, fourth in the 1992 Olympics roadrace, won the two bonus sprints of the stage and then the mass sprint into Gap with former green jersey wearer Frederic Moncassin finishing more than 50 seconds behind along with team leader Britain's Chris Boardman, the world and Olympic pursuit champion.

Riis, the 32-year-old father of two, was ecstatic at the success of the team, who are also leading the overall team standings.

Riis had set a great example by leading the team into the final straight to try and reel in the longtime lone escapee, compatriot Rolf Sorensen, who was Tour de France leader for four days in 1991 until he broke his collarbone, had escaped with 27km to the finish — leaving Saturday's stage winner Luc Leblanc of France and Swiss rider Laurent Dufaux, who had almost stolen the stage on Saturday, in his wake.

Frenchman Laurent Jalabert, world cycling number one, abandoned — closely followed by Johan



Spain's Miguel Indurain (second left) leads the pack with Russia's yellow jersey Evgeni Berzin (left), France's Luc Leblanc, Richard Virenque and Danish Bjorn Riis (left to right) during the 9th stage of the Tour de France between Val d'Isere and Sestriere (Reuters photo)

Bruyneel and Pascal Lino. Jalabert, who had been regarded as the favourite to become France's first Tour de France winner since Bernard Hinault in 1985, had been suffering from gastroenteritis since Saturday's stage to Les Arcs.

The 27-year-old, fourth last year, retired after 69km of Tuesday's 208.5km stage when he was left by the peloton on the climb to Montgenevre.

"I thought I could recover with the sun on my back but I just had no energy left," Jalabert said.

"I am very disappointed. It breaks one's heart to have to leave the Tour early," the French champion added.

Italian sprinter Mario Traversoni was the fourth rider to abandon.

Their withdrawal reduced the field to 153 out of the original 198 riders.

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Sprinklers interrupt play in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Tempests flared in a Brazilian soccer match after an automatic sprinkling system went off during the game and gave players a surprise shower.

The drenching was followed by a brawl in which one player kicked a referee and was then himself punched in the face by a linesman, while armed police attempted to separate the combatants.

Goiás had just converted a controversial penalty that gave them a 2-1 win over Anapolis in a regional championship game when powerful water jets shot up from sprinklers buried in the turf.

News reports claimed ground staff had forgotten to turn off a computer which activates them at the same time each night.

Anapolis' midfielder Marco Antonio Boiadeiro took advantage of the confusion to kick referee Antonio Pereira Da Silva.

In the ensuing melee a linesman landed a powerful punch in Boiadeiro's face as armed police officers tried to separate angry players and officials.

Era ends in U.S. All-Star rivalry

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Since 1933, the only time United States baseball rivals from the American and National Leagues saw each other before the World Series was at the All-Star Game.

But Tuesday's 67th annual showdown of the sport's best talent here marks the last time for that tradition. AL and NL teams begin inter-league play next season, with clubs playing their geographical division counterparts.

"It will take away from the All-Star Game and the World Series," said AL All-Star Joe Carter of Toronto. "I think they should keep it the way it is."

The move was made in wake of declining attendance following the labour feud that wiped out the 1994 World Series.

"It creates a lot of interest for the fans and it gives the players an opportunity to see other teams and other cities," said AL starter Jay Buhner of Seattle. "I like it."

Colorado's Ellis Burks, an NL outfielder, said nothing will damage the mystique surrounding the mid-season All-Star gathering.

"The atmosphere here is great," he said. "We have kids around and the best players in the game. It's exciting to see some old friends from the American League. Nothing will change that."

The NL team leads the series 39-26 with one drawn. The NL has won two in a row since ending a six-game AL win streak in 1993.

"This is a blast. This is what baseball is all about," added Dante Bichette, Burks' Colorado teammate and an NL starter.

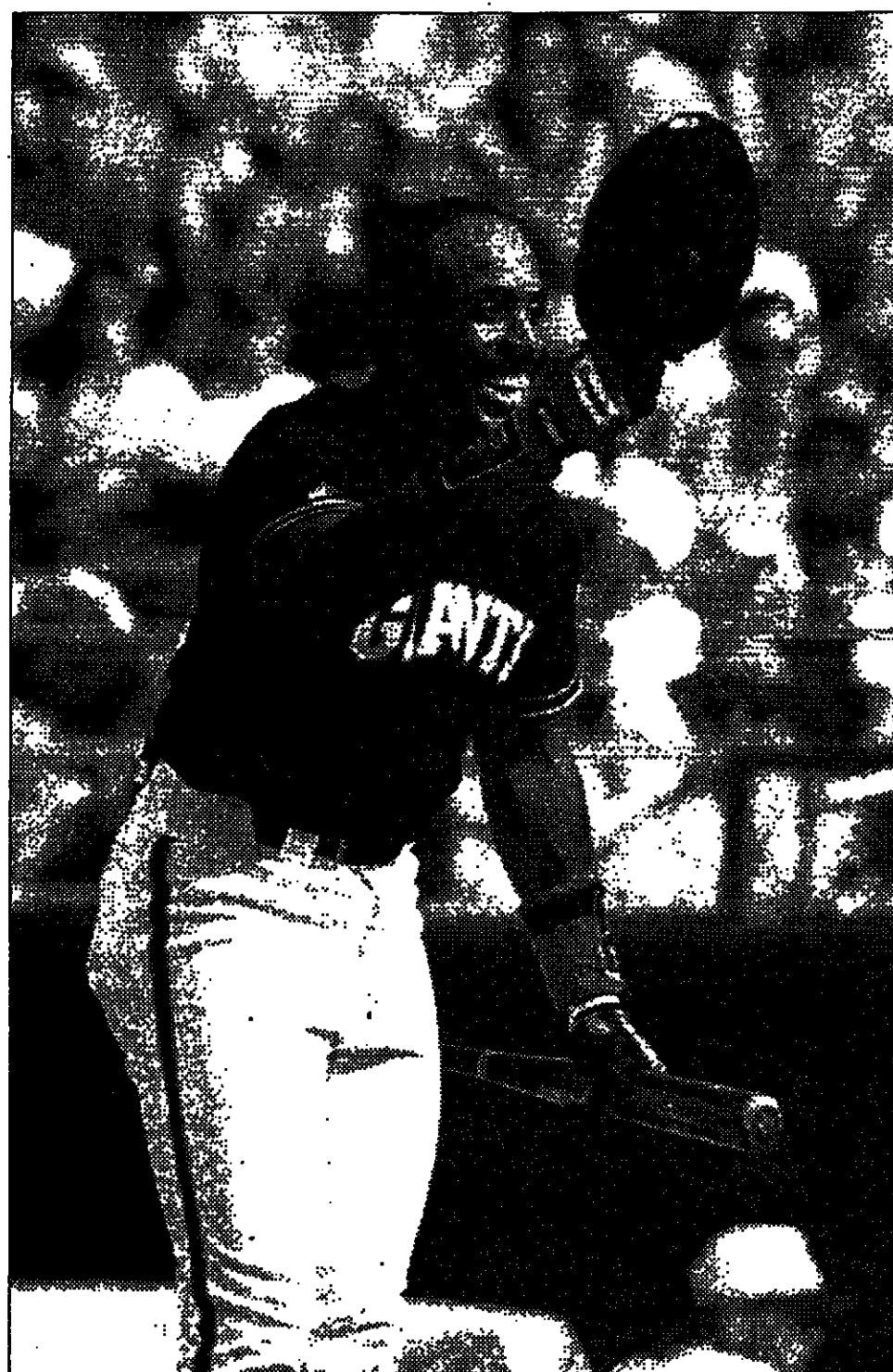
Barry Bonds of San Francisco beat Oakland's Mark McGwire 3-2 in the finals of the home run contest during Monday's batting practice session.

But, McGwire, had the most memorable blast, a towering swat that sent the ball into the upper deck of veterans stadium. Had he hit one so far before?

"Yes, on the first tee Saturday with a golf club," he said.

Carter was received with boos as he came to the plate to open the homer event. Carter's blast off Philadelphia relief pitcher Mitch Williams gave Toronto the 1993 World Series title over the Phillies.

The blast shattered Williams' confidence and pushed him into retirement, although he began a comeback a few days ago with the Phillies' low-level development team.



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds tips his cap towards Oakland Athletics' Mark McGwire who hit nine home runs in the All-Star Home Run Derby Contest at Veterans Stadium, July 8. Bonds followed with ten and went on to win the contest over McGwire in the third round, 3-2 (Reuters photo)

"I wish Mitch well," Carter said. "If he makes it back, that would be great." Atlanta's John Smoltz, who won 14 games in a row to lead all pitchers in the majors, will start for the NL against Cleveland's Charles Nagy. Both were rivals in last year's series, won by Atlanta in six games.

"I look at the All-Star Game as the greatest challenge any pitcher can face," Smoltz said. "It's definitely an honour that you're the guy."

Seattle's Ken Griffey was the most popular choice in fan balloting, but the AL outfielder will miss his second consecutive All-Star Game due to injury. NL outfielder Matt Williams is also out for a second year in a row.

Baltimore's Brady Anderson, the 11th player in baseball history to have 30 homers at the all-star break, replaces Griffey in the AL lineup. He leads a surprising number of homer hitters this season.

"You have to give the hitters credit," Atlanta's Fred McGriff said. "Guys like Brady Anderson are able to hit with greater power and precision."

Some players had greater worries than the game. Florida's Gary Sheffield was more concerned about club executive John Boles, who has not been a manager in more than a decade, being named the new manager of the Marlins following the firing of Rene Lachmann.

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